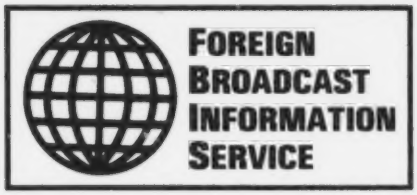

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-021
Tuesday
2 February 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-021 *2 February 1988*

CONTENTS

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Risquet: Reasons for Angolan Forces Continue 1
Malmierca Heads Delegation Visiting Mexico 1
Stresses Role of Contadora 1
Human Rights Activists Begin Hunger Strike 1
Argentine Organization on Human Rights Issue 1
Castro Meets With Uruguay's Liber Seregni 1
Guatemalan First Lady Arrives for Seminar 2
Rodriguez Meets With GEPLACEA Official 2
Ethiopian Politburo Member on Visit 2
Meets With ANPP's Aguirre 2
Crime Not Condoned Despite Flexible Sanctions 2

Grenada

National Party Steps Up Electoral Campaign 3
Minister Warns Against Leftist Groups 3
Defense Lawyers on Limited Access to Clients 3
Court Dismisses Cuban Compensation Claims 3

Haiti

FNC Coordinator Released, Grateful for Support 4
Others Held for Questioning 4
ARH Leader Acknowledges Manigat's Victory 4
Latin American Parties Delegation Arrives 5
26 January Army Raid in Artibonite Reported 5
Candidate Denounces Elections Irregularities 6
PDCH Fears Attacks; Requests Protection 6
Election Irregularities in Trou du Nord 6
De Ronceray Says 'Effective Action' Needed 7
Reports Incident in Petit Goave 7
Consultative Council Members Meet With Manigat 7
Fraternity of Priests Rejects New Government 8

MEXICO

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Campaigns in Guanajuato *[EXCELSIOR 14 Jan]* 9
PAN's Madero Challenges Government, PRI *[UNOMASUNO 16 Jan]* 9
Burria Leads Financial Delegation Tour 10
Peso To Register 2.7 Percent Decline in Feb 10
Employees of 30 Universities Strike for Wages 10

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Defense Minister on Peace Plan, Army's Role 11

Nicaragua

Further on Ortega Visit to Western Europe 18
Stops in Sweden, Norway 18
Officials Discusses Power Shortage, Rationing 18

Panama

Crusade Urges Military, People To Save Nation *[LA PRENSA 31 Jan]* 23
Opposition Leader Interviewed by Continente 23
Government Summons Civic Crusade Leaders *[LA PRENSA 30 Jan]* 26
Alberto Boyd Arrested 26
Civic Crusade Leader Arrested *[AFP]* 27
Arias Calderon Says State in 'Criminal Hands' *[LA PRENSA 31 Jan]* 27
'Anti-Noriega Paranoia' Charged 28
Delvalle Urges Support for Democratic Path 28
Government Near 'Financial Collapse' *[LA PRENSA 28 Jan]* 28
President Denies Dismissals *[MATUTINO 29 Jan]* 29
Explanation Demanded *LA PRENSA 29 Jan]* 30
Labor Leader on Dismissals *[LA PRENSA 30 Jan]* 30
Cuban Friendship Institutes Sign Pact *[LA REPUBLICA 25 Jan]* 30

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Alfonsin Pays Official Visit to Spain *[cross-reference]* 32
Peace Council Issues Declaration on Falklands 32
Courts Charge Rico, Others With 'Mutiny' *[CLARIN 30 Jan]* 32
Fuel Prices, Transport Fares Increased *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 31 Jan]* 32
Buses Burned; Trade Union Involvement Hinted *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 28 Jan]* 33

Bolivia

Minister Views Foreign Policy as Successful 33
Finance Minister on Argentine Gas Payments *[Buenos Aires DYN]* 33
Gold Reserves To Be Sold To Reactivate Economy *[PRESENCIA 25 Jan]* 33
Briefs 34
Industrial Growth Index 34

Brazil

$350 Million in Interest Paid to Banks *[AFP]* 34
Milliet on Debt Agreement 34
Nobrega Threatens To Resign Twice in 1 Week *[EFE]* 34
Sarney Addresses Cabinet on Economic Issues 34
Ministers Address Cabinet 35

Chile

Junta Debating Possibility of Free Elections *[EFE]* 36
Opposition Parties Submit Government Program *[EFE]* 37
Official Criticizes Platform 37
Campaign To Frighten Opposition Reported 38

Colombia

Officials Outline Planned National Assembly 38
Guerrillas Launch Attacks; Security Reinforced 38
ELN Blows Up Oil Pipeline *[DPA]* 38
24 Die in Clashes 39
Patriotic Unity Official Dies 39
Arsenal Discovered 39
Londono Visits Bulgaria; Meets With Officials *[cross-reference]* 39

Paraguay

Abrams' 'Offensive Statements' Criticized *[PATRIA 1 Feb]* 39
Church Issues Communique on Council of State *[EL DIARIO 22 Jan]* 40

Peru

Nationwide Strike Protests Economic Policy 41
Radio Stations Occupied *[AFP]* 41
'Violent Clashes' *[AFP]* 42
Labor Minister Views Strike 42
Police Capture Members of New Subversive Group 43
Vargas Llosa, Belaunde To Form New Front 43

Uruguay

Liber Seregni Returns, Comments on Trip 43
Port Workers Lift Strike, Agree to Arbitration 44
Briefs 44
New Drug Board Created 44

Cuba

Risquet: Reasons for Angolan Forces Continue

FL011243 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat, has reiterated in Luanda that the conditions which brought Cuban internationalist forces to Angola 12 years ago still exist. Presiding over a ceremony at the Angolan branch of UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises], the Cuban leader said Cuba supports moves toward a negotiated, just, and honorable solution to the conflict in southeast [as heard] Africa. This solution must include the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, Namibia's independence, a halt to Washington and Pretoria's assistance to UNITA [National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola], and an end to the attacks on Angola. Risquet added that the presence of Cuban forces in Angola has been an incentive for the patriots fighting apartheid—a disgraceful, anachronistic, and obsolete regime that is meant to be abolished sooner rather than later.

Malmierca Heads Delegation Visiting Mexico

FL020148 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has spoken at the opening of the joint Mexico-Cuba Intergovernmental Commission meeting. Malmierca said our country will continue working to achieve a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

Shortly before, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda welcomed the delegation headed by Malmierca. Sepulveda referred to the friendly ties that exist between the two countries. He said they will grow stronger because of the will of their governments and peoples.

Stresses Role of Contadora

FL021316 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said,in the presence of his Cuban counterpart Isidoro Malmierca, that the development of cooperation between Mexico and Cuba is characterized by richness, generosity, and efficiency in fulfilling agreements.

These remarks were made at the closing of the fifth meeting of the General Joint Mexico-Cuba Intergovernmental Commission. Sepulveda also expressed his appreciation for the work done by the commission and he asked for the consolidation of its efforts in the future.

Malmierca held a news conference after the meeting; he said the Contadora and Support Groups are very important in achieving peace in Central America. For this reason, they should continue their diplomatic work in the region.

Malmierca asserted that the United States will not be able to impose military solutions to the Central American problem.

Human Rights Activists Begin Hunger Strike

FL021149 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Approximately 20 human rights activists began a 3-day hunger strike in Havana on the eve of a human rights forum in Geneva, Switzerland.

Human rights activist Ricardo Bofill said a second fast may be called during the debate of the UN Commission on Human Rights which will open later this month.

Argentine Organization on Human Rights Issue

FL301433 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The Argentine branch of the Nuestra America Anti-Imperialist Tribunal has termed as intimidating U.S. efforts to force Latin American governments to condemn Cuba at the Human Rights Commission.

In a communique released in Buenos Aires, the organization stresses that the Cuban people are building their future independently and that Washington's attitude is nothing more than a reaction to its failure to destroy the Cuban revolution.

Castro Meets With Uruguay's Liber Seregni

FL301512 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with General Liber Seregni, president of Uruguay's Broad Front, who visited Cuba at the invitation of the Central Committee. Latin American current affairs were discussed during the talks which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and solidarity. The commander in chief gave the Uruguayan political leader a detailed briefing on Cuba's rectification process

Gen Seregni was accompanied by Geronimo Cardozo, chairman of the Broad Front's Foreign Relations Committee, and (Nicolas Etraro), secretary of the political section of that Uruguayan coalition. Manuel Pineiro Losada, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its America Department, and other America Department officials were present for the Cuban side.

Guatemalan First Lady Arrives for Seminar

FL300220 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jan 88

[By Juan Jose Hernandez]

[Excerpt] Mrs Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, first lady of the Republic of Guatemala, was welcomed by Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, upon her arrival at the Jose Marti International Airport. The first lady will attend a Latin American seminar in Santiago de Cuba next week.

Also on the same flight was (Hilda Carrazco) [last name indistinct], secretary of health of the (?Mexican) state of (?Tlaxcala).

The seminar will be on the role of women in community health programs and wi" be attended by representatives from 18 Latin American nations, as well as delegations from Spain, the United States, and Denmark.

Espin and Blandon de Cerezo spoke briefly before leaving the airport. They discussed the first lady's program of activities during her stay in Cuba. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Meets With GEPLACEA Official

FL301533 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has met in Havana with Mr Jose Cerro, executive secretary of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries [GEPLACEA]. The high-ranking GEPLACEA official briefed him on the organization's work plans for the next 3 years. He also discussed the international sugar market's current situation.

Rodriguez referred to the state of Cuba's sugar industry, its production outlook, and plans to incorporate it to the capital goods industry in the next few years.

Ethiopian Politburo Member on Visit

FL270305 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Amanuel Amde Michael, member of the Politburo of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and deputy chairman of the Council of State, this morning visited the Isle of Youth.

He was received at the Isle of Youth airport by local party and government leaders, as well as a group of Ethiopian students.

The distinguished visitor toured the installations at the Model Prison where Fidel and the attackers of the Moncada Barracks were confined. He then visited the Mengistu Haile-Mariam School where he toured several areas of the center and learned first hand about the students' efforts to maintain their customs and traditions.

The Ethiopian official then spoke with students at the school's plaza for events. He ended with an extensive dialogue in which he responded to questions from students, many of whom have lived in the Isle of Youth for 10 years.

Meets With ANPP's Aguirre

FL291917 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Amanuel Amde Michael, vice president of the Council of State and member of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, has met with Severo Aguirre, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. Aguirre explained to the Ethiopian leader the way the ANPP and its local organs are organized and operate. They discussed the possibilities of exchange and cooperation between the two parliament organizations.

Crime Not Condoned Despite Flexible Sanctions

FL012114 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The penal code reform, which was among several measures recently approved by the National Assembly of the People's Government, allows the court more latitude in fitting the sentence to the specific circumstances of the act and to the individual who committed the crime.

A crime can be committed by an adolescent or an adult, by a first time offender or a hardened criminal. It can be committed with or without the use of force. The penal-code reform widens the range of sanctions and allows the judge, once he has studied the case, to tailor the sentence. An adolescent who steals for the first time cannot be treated the same as a repeat offender. As regards this young person, the reform to the penal code makes it possible for the judge to consider the attendant circumstances and apply one sanction or several, not necessarily involving a jail term. What the law seeks is to give that young person an opportunity to rejoin his community through school or work.

Flexibility in our sanctions does not mean tolerance for crime. Crime is a violation of our morals and our socialist laws. Crime cannot be condoned. Social institutions must endeavor to return to society that young person who stole a briefcase because of the owner's carelessness. We condemn and punish the act, but the philosophy behind the reform of the penal code is that this young person can be reeducated. If we can accomplish this, we will all agree that the young individual is worth much more than the object he once stole, even if the stolen object belonged to one of us.

Grenada

National Party Steps Up Electoral Campaign

FL291901 Bridgetown CANA in English 1901 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 28, CANA—Grenada's ruling new National Party (NNP) on Wednesday stepped up its re-election campaign, with External Affairs Minister Ben Jones telling voters not to be deceived by charismatic opposition leaders.

Addressing a public meeting in the urban constituency of St. George's Town, Jones said Grenadians have demonstrated a weakness for charismatic leadership which had left Grenadians a broken, battered, despised, and demoralized people. "If people can come with a pretty face, a lovely smile and appearing to be nicely dressed we go for them but be very careful how you take them this time," he said.

"Look closely at their credentials. Listen very closely to what they tell you because they have all kinds of things that they are going to say", he urged.

Elections are [words indistinct] we are going to have the opportunity again of deciding which way we go", he told the gathering.

Jones rejected charges by political opponents that Prime Minister Herbert Blaize was dictatorial and urged them to support the Grenadian leader.

Minister Warns Against Leftist Groups

FL300318 Bridgetown CANA in English 2112 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 29, CANA—Legal Affairs Minister Ben Jones has warned Grenadians against allowing leftist politicians to take control of the island again.

"If we were to falter again and let this country fall into the hands of some of these undesirable elements posturing for leadership, we may never again have the opportunity of redeeming it", he told a public meeting.

Leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was himself killed in a 1983 palace coup that triggered a U.S.-led invasion of the island.

Jones told the meeting the were still closely associated with some of the island's enemies, such as communist Cuba, the Soviet Union, and Nicaragua.

Jones attack came amidst a step up in campaigning for general elections, constitutionally due next year.

Defense Lawyers on Limited Access to Clients

FL300414 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 29, CANA—A team of Jamaican lawyers approached by the state to defend 15 of the 17 persons convicted in the Maurice Bishop murder trial complained Friday that prison officials have allowed them only limited access to the inmates.

Spokesman for the group, Delano Harrison, said that the lawyers were unable to meet the convicts Friday despite instructions president of the court of appeal, J.O.F. Haynes, had given over the telephone in their presence to Prison Commissioner Lionel Maloney.

According to Harrison, Haynes had urged Maloney Thursday to do everything possible to allow the lawyers to meet the men who are on death row. Maloney could not be reached for comment.

The team of lawyers has been asked to represent all the defendants except former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his wife Phyllis.

The Coards are expected to be represented in the appeal—hearing of which is due to start in March—by Jamaican Barrister Ian Ramsay.

The Coards and other former government and Army officials were sentenced to hang just over a year ago for the execution of Prime Minister Bishop in a palace coup.

Harrison said the prison officials brought out the convicts handcuffed and without the necessary materials which they had prepared to give instructions to their lawyers.

"They (the convicts) said that they are not willing to have any interview once they cannot take with them the materials with which they proposed to instruct us, which the prison rules allow them to do", he said.

The lawyers had scheduled a meeting with Haynes Friday to try and have the matter resolved.

Court Dismisses Cuban Compensation Claims

FL300405 Bridgetown CANA in English 2133 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 29, CANA—The Grenada Court of Appeal on Friday dismissed a case brought by lawyers representing Cuba in two compensation claims against the Grenada Government.

In handing down judgement, President of the Court of Appeal J.O.F. Haynes said the appeal was being struck out on the grounds that it was made without proper leave from the high court judge involved. But Haynes ruled

that the appeal could be brought back before the court, provided the lawyers make the necessary amendments in each case to include an application for extension of time to apply for time to appeal.

The court allowed 42 days to facilitate the changes.

The case sought to overturn a decision by High Court Judge James Patterson in June last year to give Grenada the right to ask Cuba to deposit U.S.50,000 dollars before entertaining the claims.

In one of the claims, Havana is seeking U.S.5,2 million dollars from the Grenada Government for several pieces of construction equipment that were used in the construction of the Point Saline International Airport.

The Cubans are also seeking in this claim a further 209,547 dollars in compensation for loss of use of the equipment which include tractors and trucks.

The other claim relates to a Cubana plane which was destroyed at the abandoned Pearls Airport during the 1983 U.S.-led invasion of the island.

Havana is asking for 1.987 million Cuban pesos for loss of the aircraft and another 79,371 pesos for loss of use of the plane.

During Grenada's 1979-83 leftwing revolution, the island was Cuba's closest ally in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Haiti

FNC Coordinator Released, Grateful for Support

FL012224 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[By correspondent (Johnny Decamp) from Mirebalais]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] (Jean Heriol Casimir), coordinator of the National Concerted Action Front [FNC] for the lower central plateau, was released on Saturday 30 January.

He immediately issued a press release thanking everyone in general, and the youth of Mirebalais in particular, as well as the national and international press and all the political parties that (?had stood by him).

(Heriol) said that others might still be arrested, particularly government employees who have signed the petition [which he was arrested for allegedly circulating]. He asked for all to rise up and stand their ground [leve kanpe] and for the courts to see that justice is served.

He asked that all prisoners who have not yet appeared in court be sent to court and that those who are ill be sent to the hospital.

That was a press release from (Jean Heriol Casimir). [passage omitted]

Others Held for Questioning

FL012252 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The National Concerted Action Front's [FNC] coordinator for the lower central plateau, who was arrested in the middle of last week, was released temporarily in Mirebalais Saturday. Mr (Heriol Casimir) was accused of having incited the population to abstain from voting during the 17 January general elections and of having collected signatures for a petition demanding the 17 January elections be annulled.

Furthermore, in a communique issued today, the FNC reports that the authorities in (Savanette Baptiste), in the lower central plateau, called in for questioning another FNC member last Saturday. He is Mr (Ernet Antoine), an agricultural technician who is the local representative of the FNC.

Four other persons were also called in for questioning by the authorities in that same village Saturday. They are Francois Alexandre, a Misyon Alfa teacher; (Devrese Laventure), a former candidate for mayor; (Merilus Derilus), a sacristan; and someone called Smith.

No one knows yet the reason for these measures. The legal length of time allowed for holding someone in custody without a charge [garde-a-vue] is 48 hours.

ARH Leader Acknowledges Manigat's Victory

FL020055 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] We have here a press release from the Alliance for the Rebirth of Haiti [ARH] stating the position of Dr Clemard Joseph Charles, ARH leader, on the elections and on the victory of Mr Leslie Manigat.

Charles says that in countries with a democratic tradition, once elections are over, results are proclaimed and the person winning is designated and that the other persons who were in the race go before the nation to either acknowledge the victory and concede, or to contest the elections, in the interest of the nation.

Charles thinks it would be an important gesture for everyone to shake hands with the winner; the victor should also shake hands with the losers.

Clemard Joseph Charles says this is the only way to prove we are living in democratic times.

The ARH and its leader Dr Clemard Joseph Charles says it cannot refuse to help the new president-elect. Consequently, the ARH acknowledges Mr Leslie Manigat's victory in the 17 January 1988 elections.

In conclusion, Charles calls for a national reconciliation nationwide, with a view to attaining social peace, which he feels is the only way Haiti can return to the path of progress and launch a national reconstruction effort.

That was a press release from ARH leader Clemard Joseph Charles sent RNTH.

Latin American Parties Delegation Arrives
FL020040 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] A delegation from the Permanent Conference of Latin American Parties arrived in Port-au-Prince from Panama yesterday. The six-member delegation is to spend several days in Haiti to gather information on the Haitian political situation. The delegation is to meet with political leaders and socio-professional, religious, and union organizations.

The delegation of leaders from the Permanent Conference of Latin American Parties is here as the result of an initiative by the BIP [Patriotic Unititarian Bloc] and the Konakom [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements], and falls within the framework of an international campaign being waged by these two groups to obtain international solidarity with the Haitian people.

According to a press release issued yesterday, the delegation was received in the diplomatic waiting room at the airport by the Spanish, Chilean, Panamanian, and Peruvian ambassadors to Haiti and by the leaders of BIP and Konakom. The delegation will hold a news conference during its stay in Port-au-Prince.

26 January Army Raid in Artibonite Reported
FL012339 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Excerpt] There has been much commotion and several people wounded, many houses burned, and other damages in the Artibonite as a result of a raid by the Army in (La Chicotte), in (Ti Dedunes), very near to l'Estere, on Tuesday, 26 January 1988.

Fighting over land among Bricourt, (Devanjoux), and Attie heirs has again led to more victims in that part of the Artibonite.

Since the beginning of January, one of the groups which caused these problems has created a fuss on market day in l'Estere. Every day conversations center around land problems. A team from the tactical unit in Gonaives arrived on Tuesday 26 January. According to reports reaching us, they fired many shots for more than 3 hours.

The military abused several area residents, who were not involved in the fuss at all but became involved in hostilities over the land question. This is what people in the area reported to us. They don't know how many people were wounded because so many were wounded. Nor do they know the extent of the total damage in the (La Chicotte/Ti Desdunes) area.

Vehicles from the barracks and vehicles from the Gonaives prefecture took soldiers there on Tuesday, 26 January.

Here is the testimony of a person from the area on this matter.

[Begin recording] [Speaker] [words indistinct] That was market day in l'Estere. Tuesdays and Fridays are market days. Two Army vehicles came in. They went into the fields, shooting.

[Reporter] At what time did this happen?

[Speaker] As of 1100.

[Reporter] At 1100?

[Speaker] Yes, 1100. They began shooting all over the fields. The population [words indistinct] so everyone could return home. They were still shooting in the fields at noon, chasing everyone who was in the fields, and [words indistinct] They captured (St Jean Jean-Baptiste), whom they found in the fields. Then they got in a vehicle and went off with him.

[Reporter] Were they dressed in civilian clothing or were they dressed? [sentence as heard]

[Speaker] They were in olive-green military uniforms. Neither the prefect nor the colonel were in any of the vehicles. By 1300 they headed for (Ti Desdunes), (La Kou). (Ti Desdunes) has several areas, but they headed for (La Kou). They reached (Katreven's), a fellow who is (?involved in the lawsuit). When they arrived, they did not find him. They fired a lot of shots, and they burned down his house. They also burned down his neighbor's house, the house of (Lumines St Fleur). They burned it to the ground. There were some pigs in a pigpen. They shot them and then burned them.

[Reporter] Was anyone hurt during all this shooting?

[Speaker] Yes. The section chief told them the people were in [words indistinct] and made them shoot into the [words indistinct] at random. And while they were in the [words indistinct] people got shot in the hand.

[Reporter] How many people were wounded.

[Speaker] Several, but I don't know how many or who they are. I know that an old man named (Orafen) was shot in the palm of both the right and left hands. Many others were also shot, but we didn't have time to contact everyone (?that evening) because the section chief left

one of his children in the woods [words indistinct]. We figured he might return, so everyone was obliged to [word indistincts] if they returned they might do even more damage.

But they came to (La Kou), and the people they most mistreated were (Anatole Moise) and (Pierre St Ernst). They grabbed them and the only thing they didn't do to them is what they forgot to do to them. When they finished beating these men, the section chief gave them a couple of kicks and said: These young guys don't respect the authorities.

Another man, Joseph Pierre, who (?is not really a resident of that place but is married to someone from there) was also caught and mistreated badly. He couldn't even stand up alone when they finished with him.

I don't know of anyone who died; but I don't know whether or not anyone died later.

Another man, (Delima), who is still alive, when the section chief arrived, he said: This guy is the mastermind of the business. You can take him and do whatever you want to him. And then (?they beat him). They held on to him. There is no place on his body [words indistinct]. [end recording]

We contacted Gonaives Prefect Serge Brutus. He denied outright that his vehicle had been to the (La Chicotte/Ti Desdunes) area on 26 January; but in the statement he made, he admitted that an Army vehicle had indeed gone to the area.

This problem of fighting over this land in the l'Estere area and in the Artibonite has existed for a long time. The prefect said that town authorities were aware of the problem. [passage omitted].

Candidate Denounces Elections Irregularities

FL012115 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Mr (Jean-Marc Robert Anisca), a candidate to CASEC [Administrative Council for the Communal Section] for the rural section of (Morne-a-Chandelle), the 23d communal section of Gressier, denounces in a press release certain irregularities during yesterday's elections.

Mr (Anisca) claims the authorities in certain polling places scorned the principles of the electoral law by allowing people to vote several times at a single polling place. They did not even write down the names of the people voting.

PDCH Fears Attacks; Requests Protection

FL012311 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party] says it does not want to have anything to do with carnival groups. The PDCH has been told all week by its sympathizers, who are members of three carnival groups, that a certain sector has contacted these groups in order to send them out to trash the PDCH headquarters.

A few of the criminals will have little baskets with weapons in them. They might even throw some grenades.

Just last night, the PDCH says, there were a few cars driving past party headquarters. A taxi passed around midnight, and its passengers pulled guns to shoot.

The PDCH asks the Port-au-Prince police offices, the traffic department, to forbid the carnival groups to come dance in front of the PDCH headquarters. The PDCH is not into carnival.

The PDCH says it is certain it can rely on the police to do this because the police did it for the American Consulate and Embassy and they did it for the polling stations on 17 January.

Election Irregularities in Trou du Nord

FL300011 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Report by Cap-Haitien correspondent (Gerard Mesidor)]

[Excerpts] The problem with the 17 January 1988 elections in Port-de-Paix and in Kenscoff is also present in Trou du Nord in the Northeast. The name the BED/Northeast [Departmental Electoral Office, Department of the Northeast] sent the CEP [Provisional Electoral Council] as having been elected deputy for Trou du Nord is not the name that the CEP published. [passage omitted]

(Girard Renaud Jean-Francois) allegedly won the election, with 2,998 votes. He was followed by (Lamour L. Renel) with 2,414 votes, (Emmanuel Seraphin) with 2,060 votes, and (Boujais Andre Prophete) with 631 votes. [passage omitted]

The CEP added 1,000 votes to (Lamour L. Renel's) score; and he was declared the deputy-elect, with 3,414 votes. [passage omitted]

According to a reliable source, the CEP decided to reject (Girard Renaud Jean-Francois) because he had supported the National Concerted Action Front in the 29 November 1988 elections. (Jean-Francois) has told us he is planning to take this to court.

We have received a press release from more than 500 peasants in (Dipiti). They say they vigorously protest the 17 January sham elections aimed at putting a man in power and they are determined not to acknowledge that government. They say they support the demands of the Catholic and Protestant churches, which were stated in their most recent message on Haiti's problems.

We have undertaken a struggle for salvation and we should (?do everything we can) to see that Haiti can successfully take the path of democracy, they said. [passage omitted]

De Ronceray Says 'Effective Action' Needed

FL290251 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Hubert de Ronceray's Movement for National Development [MDN] has addressed a message to all its partisans, sympathizers, and to all Haitians. [passage omitted]

De Ronceray says the dictatorial system that for many years paralyzed the social and economic structure has begun to sprout new roots to annihilate all the hopes of the majority. [passage omitted]

The message continues: This is not a time for pretty speeches nor for calls of resignation. Precise and effective action must be taken, and quickly. [passage omitted]

You must remain mobilized and attentive to watchwords from the MDN. [passage omitted]

We of the MDN reiterate our support for everyone, nationwide, who has publicly said no to the coup d'etat led by Leslie Francois Manigat, for everyone who denounces this as a violation of the Constitution and a crime against national dignity and sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Reports Incident in Petit Goave

FL012200 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] We are going to have you listen to a message from the Mobilization for National Development's [MDN] information service in the voice of party leader Professor Hubert de Ronceray.

[Begin De Ronceray recording] Petit Goave says "no" to the Manigat coup d'etat and will not acknowledge the new government.

Port-au-Prince, 31 January, 1988.

It was in the midst of an explosion of rage, bullets, and tear gas that Hubert de Ronceray, president of the MDN ended his visit to Petit Goave on Saturday, 30 January, 1988.

It began peacefully. Hubert de Ronceray began visiting families at 0830. Everywhere he went, people burst into tears upon seeing him and there were even people who told him to say the word so they could pounce.

In the streets, MDN's following grew minute by minute. The crowd formed in front of the residence of (Denis Jean-Francois) and chanted many things, yelling and saying the blow was too much for them and that they couldn't stand it. They spewed out their indignation. The Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] were following Hubert de Ronceray all over town. A meeting was held at the Lambi Club for an informal lecture and discussion at 1000. The MDN president said the entire country condemned the coup d'etat in favor of Manigat and that to put Manigat in power at least 250 thousand persons would have to be killed. ?

Meanwhile, there were many FADH troops in front of the Lambi Club ready to repress any demonstration that might begin rumbling, either inside or outside. Men, women, and children from all social classes were in the streets at approximately 1300. They confronted the security forces. Yesterday was a preview of what a general uprising might be like.

We had one person wounded.

The population of Petit Goave, of both the town and the surrounding hills, has risen up. They are mobilized and at the orders of Hubert de Ronceray, their leader, their president.

This is a news bulletin from the MDN's information service. [end recording]

Consultative Council Members Meet With Manigat

FL292204 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] The members of the Consultative Council, an organization created by a National Government Council [CNG] decree some 15 months ago paid a courtesy visit to Haiti's president-elect, Professor Leslie Manigat, to congratulate him on his victory in the 17 January elections. The meeting took place at the president's temporary office at the former headquarters of ONAPI [National Investment Promotion Office]. The ceremony took place in the presence of former Ambassador Roger Savain, who is a member of the RDNP, the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats.

Mrs Paulette Pujol Oriol spoke on behalf of her colleagues. She explained the role of the Consultative Council, which is to serve as a conduit between the CNG and the country. She also spoke of the significance and scope of the work the Consultative Council has undertaken at this extremely difficult period in Haiti's history. She gave the new president-elect assurances of the willingness of members of the Consultative Council to continue working for Haiti.

President-elect Manigat congratulated the visitors on their visit and expressed his appreciation for the work they had done during their mandate. He said the efforts made by the council members (?will go down in history); and he assured them his government will study their files when [words indistinct].

The members of the Consultative Council visited president-elect Manigat yesterday, at around noon.

Fraternity of Priests Rejects New Government

FL290311 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Report by Les Cayes correspondent (Dominique Dede)]

[Text] Here is the position of the Fraternity of Priests of the churches of the Southern Diocese on the current events in Haiti.

Our position has not changed. It is in keeping with that of the Haitian Bishops' Conference, the Conference of Clergymen, the CHR [Conference Haitienne des Religieux—Haitian Conference of Clergymen], the priests in the Artibonite and Grande Anse areas, and that of the Protestant Federation.

The Fraternity of Priests in the south does not acknowledge the government resulting from the 17 January event. It is a rotten political framework, corrupt through and through. We pity those who still believe in puppet presidents.

As for the business of a Te Deum, forget it! The phrase—Show some respect [words indistinct] the struggle of suffering peoples—will reverberate in the ears of the governments of the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Venezuela, and all others!

We are shouting encouragement to the population of the south and to our eight other geographical departments. Why are they waiting to hold their own get-togethers, to increase the strength of the organizations of Port-au-Prince? We encourage civic and political organizations to quickly make whatever proposals they (?are going to make). They must plan good measures and solid actions so that we can [words indistinct]. This should be done this weekend, quickly, quickly.

This declaration is signed by many priests.

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Campaigns in Guanajuato

PA241250 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Jan 88 pp 1a, 15a

[Article by Roberto Vizcaino]

[Excerpt] Irapuato, Guanajuato, 13 Jan—Democratic Front presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas has said that should he become president, he would repeal the agrarian writ of amparo and requisitions, and encourage peasants to use agrarian organizations involved in production and social security.

During his tour of Guanajuato State, Cardenas called for absolute respect for the current forms of land ownership and pointed to the need to complete agrarian reform in Mexico.

Before private agricultural producers, the presidential candidate of the leftist opposition said that a revolutionary government such as the one he hopes to head should make the protection of small- and medium-sized businessmen a priority to promote domestic investment in Mexico.

He said these nationalist businessmen should not be confused with those who have become rich through financial speculation and who have exploited the Mexican people by taking advantage of government policies that are not identified with the popular majorities. [passage omitted]

PAN's Madero Challenges Government, PRI

PA261912 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 16 Jan 88 p 4

[Article by Jose del Real]

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, 15 Jan—In response to a PRI demand for the government to punish those who intend to disrupt social order, the PAN [National Action Party] challenged the government by saying: "Let them punish us." The PAN state leadership stressed that "there will be discontent" and that the calls to civil disobedience will continue.

Regarding this, PAN state leader Pablo E. Madero Belden explained that in 1910 Francisco I. Madero issued a call to subversion and that that political party is reviving the struggle to have a Mexico where the vote is truly respected. Madero Belden also said there should be no promises of "nonexistent paradises," a reference to statements made by PRI leader Jorge De la Vega Dominguez.

According to Madero Belden, the PRI is a "state secretariat for electoral affairs" where the president of the republic appoints and dismisses the PRI leader by whim.

At a news conference granted at the PAN offices located on Escobedo and Trevino streets, UNOMASUNO asked about the statements made by PRI leader De la Vega Dominguez who demanded punishment for the parties that want to disrupt the social order. To this, Madero Belden said:

"What is the reason for our cause? It can be found in what has happened. So what is the reason?" Madero Belden answered his own question: "The electoral fraud." The PAN leader continued, rhetorically asking himself: "What can be done to remove the reason that gave rise to our cause?" To which he replied: "Respect the vote."

He reiterated that to avoid civil disobedience the country needs a government which "will do its share."

Regarding De la Vega's demand for prison sentences for those who call for civil disobedience, he said:

"The factor needed to respect the people's will is the elimination of electoral fraud. Then there would be no discontent."

Regarding the same topic, CROC [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants] leader Alberto Juarez Blancas gave his opinion supporting De la Vega Dominguez' remarks.

He noted that one of the punishments that could be applied to PAN for its unpatriotic attitude would be to withdraw the party from the registry so the country's interests would not be harmed." [quotation marks as published]

In like fashion, Madero Belden said: "We are not afraid that De la Vega's demand could become a decree at any time to put us in jail. Let them do it, the people would prevent it."

He also said: We do not intend to eliminate social achievements, but we do believe that the common land [ejido] must be distributed to the peasants for them to keep and not as a property that is rented to them to have more control over them.

He emphasized that Article Three must be updated and allow priests to vote even if they cannot be elected to office.

He denied that the priests' influence would result in rebellion against the government because the people are very mature.

Burria Leads Financial Delegation Tour

PA271455 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Finance Secretary Gustavo Petricioli has notified creditor banks that he is optimistic about Mexico's economic future and that he hopes Mexico's deficit will decline to 8 percent. Petricioli's note encourages the banks to respond, by 4 February, to Mexico's proposal to pay the debt with bonds.

A Mexican financial delegation is in New York to meet with creditor bank officials and to discuss details of the Mexican proposal. Public Credits Director Jose Angel Burria met with more than 100 U.S. bankers who said they are already working on their response to the proposal. Burria said the proposal is further proof of Mexico's effort to solve the debt problem and to avoid any possible confrontations.

Burria will travel to Tokyo this weekend, and later will visit bankers in Europe and the Middle East, to discuss details of the proposal.

Peso To Register 2.7 Percent Decline in Feb

FL301917 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1716 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 30 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Miguel Mancera Aguayo, director of the Bank of Mexico, has announced that the Mexican peso will register a 2.7 percent devaluation next month as a result of a declining trend noted in relation to the U.S. dollar in the last few days. The peso will fall an average of 3 pesos every work day in February. [passage omitted]

Employees of 30 Universities Strike for Wages

PA010310 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Report by Emma Galvan]

[Text] A total of 200,000 employees of 30 universities began a 12-hour strike today at 0700 to demand higher wages and subsidies.

The strike was called by the Single National Union of University Workers [Sindicato Unico Nacional de Trabajadores Universitarios] [SUNTU] and the National Federation of University Workers [CONTU].

The work stoppage affects the National Autonomous University of Mexico [UNAM], the Metropolitan Autonomous University, Mexico College, and other universities throughout the country. The employees are demanding an emergency 15-percent wage increase and a minimum 33-percent increase in collective bargaining talks scheduled for 1-15 February.

The report was made by SUNTU leader Nicolas Olivos Cuellar, who explained that the workers have separately submitted wage increase proposals, which will be negotiated on an individual basis. Twenty-five SUNTU affiliates are taking part in the strike. The other striking unions are CONTU affiliates and the UNAM union. Although the 15-percent emergency raise has already been agreed to, the workers are supporting the professors, whose collective bargaining contract is under review.

El Salvador

Defense Minister on Peace Plan, Army's Role

PA301500 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Interview with Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova by reporter Carlos Rivas during "Face to Face" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rivas] Dear viewers, this morning we have the pleasure of presenting Defense Minister Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova on our program "Face to Face." Good morning and welcome, General.

[Vides] Good morning to all.

[Rivas] It is a pleasure to have you with us. Since the Esquipulas II agreement was signed, the Armed Forces have been observed as supporting the government. What are the points of agreement and disagreement between the Armed Forces and the government?

[Vides] Thank you for that question. We have analyzed Esquipulas II thoroughly. Naturally, and as military men, we have considered the effect of the various areas covered by the Esquipulas II agreement on our military concept and on the security of the Central American states. The Esquipulas II agreement contains objectives, principles, and goals valid for us and, as far as I know, for all the peoples of Central America. Some of these objectives are to achieve peace, ensure social justice for our peoples, establish true democratic systems in Central America, etc. I think the principles set forth in the Esquipulas II plan reflect the desire of the Central American peoples. That is why the Armed Forces have told the president of the Republic that they support each of the government's actions to fulfill the objectives and goals of Esquipulas II. The Armed Forces, however, have requested that all efforts for compliance with Esquipulas II take place within the framework of the Constitution, which we and the president have sworn to protect. In addition, this provision is included in Esquipulas II. This is the support we are giving.

[Rivas] In other words, the Armed Forces offer to support the actions of the government provided these actions are in accord with the Constitution.

[Vides] Right. We cannot accept or endorse any action outside the framework of the Constitution.

[Rivas] Did the Armed Forces fully agree with the amnesty and unilateral cease-fire established a few months ago?

[Vides] Yes, we agreed to the amnesty and to the cease-fire. You can understand this consent has represented a sacrifice by the Armed Forces for the purpose of achieving peace in this country. To tell the truth, as military men, we dislike an amnesty and cease-fire. However, we must do our part to attain peace in Central America. We the military men are the first ones to want peace, because we are the ones who have been fighting and risking our lives every day.

[Rivas] Prior to the meeting of presidents in San Jose, the top military leaders of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua [as heard] met in Guatemala and later in Honduras. What did they discuss?

[Vides] We met twice, with practically the same objectives in mind. We, the Guatemalan defense minister, and the head of the Honduran Armed Forces analyzed the development of the Esquipulas II plan from a strictly military viewpoint. We wanted to consider the effect of each point of Esquipulas II—for instance: amnesty, cease-fire, nonuse of foreign territories, etc.—on the policy and on the Armed Forces, as well as on events in each of these three countries. We then drew some conclusions from this meeting. The most important of these was that we told the presidents that military operations are subordinated to political actions in every democratic country. Consequently, we would support the Esquipulas II agreement, although we wished to make a very special recommendation: the considerations and conclusions of the San Jose meeting should take national security into account. We believe the planned and current growth of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces far surpasses the needs of any of the Central American states. As more than just an army oriented toward defensive action, the Nicaraguan Armed Forces give us the impression of seeking to expand to other countries in the future. Therefore, we felt we had to make some recommendations to our respective presidents.

[Rivas] So you, the military leaders, recommend that the Armed Forces should always be present to ensure national security and sovereignty?

[Vides] I believe that the presidents, when they have been advised by us, are well aware of the role they should play for the good of the country and national security. I attended this meeting as an adviser because security was one of the most important subject being discussed. If I am told the ministers are going to form a commission, I will participate in it. Otherwise, I will stay in my own country.

[Rivas] Mr Minister, as for the unilateral cease-fire: Did the military leaders at any point believe this could endanger national security?

[Vides] I do not think so. We have heard a number of politicians express different views, some of them for and some of them against it. Some of them even doubted our ability to ensure the nation's security with a unilateral cease-fire. Truly speaking, if you read the Constitution, you will see that it discusses everywhere the Armed Forces' protecting private property, human rights, etc.—never attacking. This is what we did. For 90 days, we subscribed to and implemented the precise plan to

completely ensure national security. Once this goal was attained, we were in a position to establish a unilateral cease-fire during which our troops shifted to a defensive posture, while retaining the ability to retaliate if attacked. We compared the 15 days prior to the cease-fire with the period of the cease-fire itself, and we found there were barely eight more dead and eight more wounded than during regular periods.

It is appropriate to mention that the subversives doubled their attacks, ambushes, and harassment against military positions during those days. I personally believe that the Armed Forces were quite capable of implementing defensive measures for several days. This involved patrolling and guaranteeing our national security.

[Rivas] I have a few more questions, primarily about the Esquipulas II agreement. The president has asserted that he and the Salvadoran Government have fully implemented the Esquipulas II accords. Do you personally believe this?

[Vides] I believe they have; I believe El Salvador has fulfilled the most important categories. The amnesty was broad, and we are living a democratic process—which means we have further proof that a democratic process is being implemented in this country. A cease-fire also was decreed. The fact that it was a unilateral cease-fire was not our fault; the subversives used all kinds of excuses, which precluded a bilateral cease-fire. There is other proof: The state of siege was lifted; there is enough freedom for the news media; etc. This shows that we are indeed fulfilling the Esquipulas II agreement. We are not using our territory to attack other states, and we are not sending logistical support to the Central American states. [as heard]

[Rivas] General, Dr Hector Oqueli Colindres said in one of his statements that we cannot discuss a full implementation of the agreements signed by the Central American presidents because El Salvador does not allow new newspapers to open. He mentioned a specific case—EL INDEPENDIENTE. He also said they [not further identified] could not exercise their right to move freely around the country, and gave an example: Arturo Cruz—who was a member of the Nicaraguan Resistance—had arrived in Nicaragua for the 1984 elections and was able to move move about freely. However, there are always problems and threats whenever Dr Guillermo Ungo wants to enter the country. Oqueli also said that El Salvador has occasionally been used to send support to the contras. How can this affect [words indistinct]?

[Vides] I would like to say that Drs Ungo and Zamora have freely moved about this nation, and I do not mean in 1984. They recently entered the country and stayed more than 10 days, but the opposition could not do this in Nicaragua. Nevertheless, it is not a matter of seeing what Nicaragua does or what we do. The fact is that we are fulfilling the accords. This is obvious because Dr Oqueli Colindres is in the country, and Dr Zamora arrived in the country yesterday. They have always claimed that the population supports them, so they will have no problem moving throughout the nation, since the people themselves will guide and protect them. However, if they do not have the support of the people, they will certainly have some problems. I have forgotten the rest of the question.

[Rivas] It is the part about El Salvador's being used by the U.S. Government to send support to the contras.

[Vides] As for that, I think the only case that applies is that of [Eugene] Hasenfus, right?

[Rivas] Yes.

[Vides] There is a possibility that he might have taken off from El Salvador. The important thing is that this is not a policy of either the government or the Armed Forces command. We have issued all the necessary orders so that Salvadoran territory is not used to attack other states. You can rest assured that we are not doing that.

[Rivas] Dr Oqueli Colindres also said yesterday during this program [words indistinct] that there was a pact between the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Armed Forces.

[Vides] The pact he mentions is the one signed in 1980 by former Defense Minister Gen Garcia. The Armed Forces-PDC pact then ended once the Constituent Assembly was appointed and President Alvaro Magana was sworn in. I can assure you there is no pact between the Armed Forces and the PDC at present. We are fulfilling our constitutional duty, and we have no pact with any political party.

[Rivas] I insist: There is much talk about the existence of that pact as a result of the Armed Forces' proclamation of 1979. You are saying that at present there is no commitment with the PDC or any other political party.

[Vides] There is a pact. When the new Constitution was drafted, we established a pact with the Constitution but not with any political party.

[Rivas] We will return to the subject of Esquipulas II, but now I want to ask you: In case there are charges of manipulation of electoral results, would the Armed Forces be prepared to take action?

[Vides] First, it is important to note that the Armed Forces have decided to continue supporting the democratic process. I believe this should have always been our policy. However, it has been our policy in the past four elections, and I am certain we will also follow this in upcoming elections. We are not direct arbiters; that role belongs to the Central Elections Council. However, we will do everything possible to ensure that elections are free and that the Armed Forces stay out of politics. A

week ago, I met with the Armed Forces commanders, and they made the commitment to remain out of politics. That is what they want.

[Rivas] Pardon me, General: If you are not arbiters, what role do you play as guarantors?

[Vides] We guarantee that the electoral results will be respected.

[Rivas] What measures must the president implement following the meeting of presidents in San Jose, Costa Rica? What commitments did the president make?

[Vides] The five presidents agreed to fulfill those parts of the agreement they had not yet complied with. El Salvador had complied with practically all points, but it may have to hold meetings to continue the dialogue and to secure a cease-fire. I believe these are the most important points. I also believe that the president will have to establish closer contacts with the political forces of our nation to secure national unity as soon as possible.

[Rivas] Are we referring to improving the internal dialogue in El Salvador with the forces...

[Vides, interrupting] That is what I think. I believe that in the same way efforts had been made to talk with the left, efforts should be made for contacts with the other groups. I see the situation this way because the more support we—the government, that is—have, the better chance there is for a successful dialogue with the subversive elements.

[Rivas] General, if the president has complied with most of the Esquipulas II agreement, as you say he has, then why has it become more difficult to achieve peace in our country?

[Vides] I believe the road to peace is long and difficult. If we do not now know how difficult it is attain peace in our countries, we will never know. This is an effort we have to focus on in terms of time and space. We have to realize that we have to take the first step, regardless of how difficult this may be. We have done this, and we have to continue advancing in that direction. Peace is difficult in our country because its social, economic, and political problems are huge. We do not ignore that. To a great extent, these problems are the root of the conflict we are enduring. We do not have huge resources. To have peace, it is necessary not only to carry out the political and military measures we are instituting, but also to develop a true awareness of national unity that will allow us to attain objectives which will become more difficult to reach with the passage of time. Consequently, it is difficult to attain peace overnight. As some document stated, the period of deterioration that our countries have passed through has been too protracted. This prevents us from solving our difficulties overnight. What really matters is that, however difficult it is to find the path to peace, we have taken the first step and are willing to continue in the same direction.

[Rivas] As defense minister, as a Salvadoran citizen, and as a military man, how would you rate military activities—on a supposed scale of 1 to 100—which are very important in a war like this? Is it possible to separate the political and military actions from other types?

[Vides] There are a number of doctrines concerning this. You have listened to Colonel Majano and others who say that military actions would rate about 10 percent. However, I have never believed in percentages; I like to be realistic. There will be times when it will be necessary to apply 90 percent of military actions in one single day, while on some other days, it will be necessary to apply 100 percent of political efforts. One example of this is what we are now doing during our operations: We are deploying all our forces in our military operations. There are times, however, when we have to combine military and political operations with a cease-fire. Consequently, our military involvement would be lessened in those instances.

[Rivas] Do you think the government has been evaluating this properly?

[Vides] I think so. An accurate assessment is being made, particularly concerning military operations. We have more than fulfilled the objectives we set every year. In other words, we are doing well, militarily speaking. As a result, the guerrillas have lost the ability to execute large-scale frontal attacks. You have heard about the destruction of bridges and buses, for instance. There have also been stoppages. All of these are purely terrorist actions.

[Rivas] I am under the impression that when the Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS] was leaving the hotel, you said you thought that the commission was a little partial. Why did you believe this about the commission? Do you think their attitude continued until the meeting ended in Panama and prior to the meeting in San Jose?

[Vides] My remarks outside the Presidente Hotel were primarily based on observations of the attitude of the CIVS.

[Rivas] During the meeting?

[Vides] During the meeting. May I mention two or three instances I recall? When El Salvador presented a 1,000-page document containing all the charges we had registered concerning violations by the terrorists, one of the

CIVS members stated they were not particularly interested in receiving information from governments, but rather from the opposition. I think this should not have been said, either for diplomatic reasons or for mere courtesy. They could have received the document and then thrown it into the trash can if they wanted, but this action showed they were not really interested in the government's problems and proposals. Another important point: We observed that when charges against Nicaragua were brought up, one or two countries in the commission always tried to lay a smokescreen. We also mentioned this to them. At the same time, they disregarded the charges that had been filed. Some said these charges had not been filed; but they were, for I was there. Mention was also made of houses in Nicaragua where command posts and radios operated, where the terrorist leaders are being observed. They did not attach the proper importance to this, and said the charges should have been filed previously and that this was not the time to make the verification.

On that occasion, I said all verification would take place 1 week later, and that they could move to other houses so that the CIVS members would not find anything. However, the only accusation against El Salvador concerned the operation of a radio station. At that point I told them I assumed the risk of going anyplace they wanted to see if that radio station did exist. They also refused to make an on-site inspection at that time.

The first UN draft report did not fully detail the facts. Thus, during the Panama meeting, which was held prior to the San Jose meeting of Central American foreign ministers, the appropriate comments were made. In the end, the document was more accurate.

[Rivas] I have two questions concerning your last answer: First, Oqueli Colindres said yesterday that Nicaragua pushed for on-site verification to answer charges that Nicaragua is providing logistical support and materiel to the Salvadoran guerrillas. He even said the Salvadoran representatives failed to present proof of this when they visited Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Government, the deputy foreign minister, and everyone in the delegation insisted on an inspection. Second, as for the Panama meeting: Is it true that hard work was needed to amend the report or the findings by the CIVS concerning Salvadoran compliance?

[Vides] With regard to the Panama meeting, I cannot answer, because I was not there. That was the job of the foreign minister. As for Zamora's views...[corrects himself] Oqueli's views to the effect that Nicaragua was prepared for an inspection: We heard President Ortega say he would allow an on-site inspection if the Central American presidents agreed. However, the Central American presidents did not have to agree on this, for the inspection is a unilateral decision. He thus could have permitted the inspection right then. Basically, he was trying to prevent an inspection by using the condition of an agreement as an excuse.

We know inspections are a unilateral matter. We said this, and although there is no agreement by the other Central American presidents, we were assuming the responsibility to conduct an inspection wherever they wished. President Ortega's attitude was not as Oqueli described. On the contrary, Ortega now says he will accept an inspection when all the places we mentioned have been changed.

[Rivas] You have also said that progress in Nicaragua is not adequate to allow democracy to thrive. Why?

[Vides] Many people ask that question. Sometimes steps in a certain direction can be taken without adequate maneuvering room to obtain the expected results. Perhaps if I gave you a small example...[changes thought] I think Esquipulas II constitutes a commitment by the five Central American presidents to comply with it in good faith. It is not as important for the other Central American states, besides Nicaragua, to comply with it. I will give you an example of why I do not think democracy will flourish in Nicaragua: Nicaragua has hardly opened the doors and channels toward democracy. I compare this to five small landowners who go to a bank and ask for a loan to plant corn. They tell the bank: We will repay the loan in 6 months after we harvest the corn. Each landowner thus makes a commitment with the bank, with the bank being Central America. We see them come to the bank with their papers. They withdraw the money, till the land, and plant their seeds. Months later, the plants begin to grow. El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica are giving the plants enough water, fertilizer, and pesticides. Most likely, their harvest will be sufficient to repay the bank loan.

Nicaragua has allowed only a small opening for the news media; only one newspaper and one radio have opened. However, those media were subject to an existing state of emergency, which the Nicaraguans just lifted. In other words, freedom of expression was too limited to produce the desired results. I think that if Nicaragua does not give this plant enough water and fertilizer—by fertilizer I mean freedom of the press, freedom of expression, releasing all prisoners, and steps to preserve individuals liberties—and if there are not enough liberties, the democratic process will not thrive. If, in the end, not enough pesticide is sprayed to kill bugs to ensure a good harvest, we will think there is democracy in the five countries, but that will really be the case in only four. There will not be democracy in Nicaragua, because democracy has not received enough fertilizer to produce fruit. We will not see democracy in Nicaragua any time soon.

[Rivas] Since we are Salvadorans and chiefly interested in El Salvador, it would be no problem for those plants you call democracy to grow anywhere else in Central America but Nicaragua. Each nation or government can do with its country either as it pleases or as the people

decide. Do you believe that if this plant does not grow in Nicaragua, it will not grow in the other countries; or, do you believe that if it does, will it do so with great difficulty?

[Vides] I think these plants will grow in our countries with some problems, because Nicaraguans will interfere more in the domestic affairs of its neighbors.

[Rivas] How can that interference be overcome, General?

[Vides] By complying with Esquipulas II, by preventing the territory of other states from being used to attack our countries, and by withholding logistical support—sending arms and ammunition, taking care of the wounded, training personnel who travel from Nicaragua to Cuba, and so forth. If we manage to stop this, our chances of furthering our democratic process will be much greater.

[Rivas] Does that include Honduras and its providing shelter for the Nicaraguan contras?

[Vides] Logically, it does. However, you listened to the remarks of President Azcona. He denied there are contra camps in Honduras, and said any will be removed if they are found.

[Rivas] Let us discuss the elections after we discuss Nicaragua a little more. What do you think President Ortega meant when he said there will be elections? He said he could hand over the government but not power.

[Vides] I think that is made clear by an article in the Nicaraguan Constitution that states each Nicaraguan has the unrenounceable duty to defend revolutionary gains. Although this article has a much broader meaning, that should be enough to answer your question.

Last time, I asked some of these Nicaraguan gentlemen: What are these revolutionary gains? Logically, they are the Marxist gains. However, they believe if they lose control of the government, they can relinquish the government but not power—which means they will keep their arms and strive to topple the new government and continue with the revolutionary gains they have achieved. They describe this as an unrenounceable right of all Nicaraguans.

[Rivas] Basically, does this mean they are not interested in relinquishing the government or power?

[Vides] As I see it, the Nicaraguan Constitution makes it very difficult to establish true democracy in Nicaragua.

[Rivas] In military and political terms, what impact do you think the statements of former Sandinist official Roger Miranda have had?

[Vides] I think they have dispelled some doubts we had. Miranda managed to take with him all the information concerning the future growth of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces until 1980 or 1985. [sentence as heard] Based on that projected build up, there is clearly a defensive attitude. Other important points concern information on how our [as heard] troops are trained. There are 15 terrorists who have already been trained to handle the SAM-7 missile, and the Salvadoran terrorists may receive SAM-7 missiles in the future. We are already taking necessary measures to try and minimize the effect those weapons will have on the country.

[Rivas] Let us now discuss national questions: Since late 1987, there have been persistent rumors of divisions within the Salvadoran Armed Forces. Many young officers reportedly disagree with the general staff or the military's high command on how to handle the conflict. They believe a little more aggressiveness is needed. Do you think these are mere rumors, or is it true there is dissatisfaction within the Armed Forces?

[Vides] We periodically hold meetings with the commanding officers, but I have not limited myself to meeting only with these commanders. I have met with sublieutenants, and now I am meeting with soldiers. I explain what we are doing in our country, and we listen to their opinions, especially those of the commanders. This is unprecedented. Of course, in a group where there are 60 or 70 commanders, we cannot agree on everything.

The important thing is that the high command has been able to hear the comments and advice of the commanders. We have also been able to adopt corrective measures when they have been needed. Whenever the unity of the Armed Forces—especially in our country—is questioned, the defense minister is always the last to know, as I have said. Although very few may believe otherwise, the only way to show we are not divided is by the fact that we have been united all this time. If there ever is a true division within the Armed Forces, you will most likely be asking: Has such and such a person left? Or, have the members of the high command left? On the countrary, in every difficult situation we have experienced, the commanders have supported us unanimously. All the officers have supported us. Since Colonel Ochoa left, no officer has opposed what we are doing.

[Rivas] Can we say then that the struggle is solid...

[Vides, interrupting] Some people may think otherwise. However, there is a unity in the criteria of our actions, and that is what matters.

[Rivas] How do you feel about FDR members Hector Oqueli, Manuel Ungo, and Ruben Zamora and their joining El Salvador's political scene?

[Vides] I believe if they truly join and come with the good intentions of developing step-by-step as a political party, this would reinforce our nation's democratic process.

[Rivas] How will the Armed Forces react when... [changes thought] Actually, it has already happened. These men are blaming you for over 70,000 murders, destruction, and everything that has happened in our country. They are complaining about economic destruction, murders, support to death squads, and other things.

[Vides] I think it is a basic mistake to always compare the terrorists and the Armed Forces, as if they were equals. The Constitution created the Armed Forces. They are there to defend our country, and we are duty-bound to use our weapons to do so. The terrorists, on the other hand, are always illegal. No one has authorized them to carry weapons, destroy bridges, or carry out operations of that sort.

I believe the Armed Forces have complied with a constitutional mandate most professionally. I think the terrorists are the true culprits of the wave of violence we are experiencing. They came to attack our country, and we have the responsibility and the duty to defend it.

[Rivas] One familiar comment made recently by Salvadoran politicians of all persuasions is that the professional change taking place within the Salvadoran Armed Forces is very drastic. Politicians cite a little more awareness of military and civilian matters. What is the reason for this change, and when did it begin? Who is promoting this change in the Army?

[Vides] When I became defense minister, the change had already been carried out. We are continuing to promote what others started. The real change in the attitude of our Armed Forces came about because we understood that an army cannot ignore the people. We have to face the people; we have to know their needs and to serve them.

[Rivas] Do you think this was not the case in the past?

[Vides] I think that in the past, the process did not work well. The Army was more involved in purely institutional problems, and it only listened to certain groups, etc. Basically, we had turned our backs on the people.

[Rivas] Was this attitude part of the conflict the country is experiencing?

[Vides] It is, of course, part of the conflict. I believe we are all responsible for the conflict and its solution. Perhaps the most significant feature of the change in the Army is that we have the duty to maintain the institution of the Armed Forces. We cannot do this by serving political parties or specific people. We have to serve all the people. I know that when the Salvadoran people realize they have an Army that guarantees their right to vote and that respects their vote, the people will know they have an Army that guarantees power being won through ballots, not bullets. I believe that to win this type of struggle, which needs the support of the people, we have to support, we have to support [repeats himself] the democratic process and respect human rights.

[Rivas] Gen Vides Casanova, you were discussing how you maintain the unity of the Army. However, despite your neutrality and apoliticism, you are a member of the El Salvadoran Government. Do you not think the government should employ the same methods as the Army to maintain that firm unity? Should not those methods be transferred to the government as well? We have noticed a certain division within the structure of the ruling party.

[Vides] I would like to answer your question very honestly. I am not interested in seeing any rupture in the ruling party. The commitment and support of the Armed Forces is for the president of the Republic, as president. We have nothing to do with the ruling party. I believe that is a problem the party must resolve on its own. The ruling party is passing through electoral times now, so breakups are natural. This has also happened in other parties. However, what matters is that the Salvadoran people know that the Armed Forces are not supporting and will not support any party. This policy gives our people every opportunity to participate in elections and to obtain the results they want.

[Rivas] This week, members of the Social Democratic Party, the MPSC [Social Christian People's Movement], and the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] will meet to decide whether or not they will participate in the elections. One of their arguments against participation is that if they choose mayoral candidates for distant towns—such as Chirilagua or Jucuaran, towns deep within areas of conflict—no one could guarantee the safety of these candidates. President Duarte himself said he cannot guarantee the safety of these persons. What do you think would be the best way to resolve this problem?

[Vides] We will try to guarantee the safety of everyone and the safety of all political parties throughout the country. Obviously, it is impossible to guarantee absolute security for everyone. I believe there is only one certain thing in war and politics: that nothing is certain. Both military men and politicians must take and run risks to participate in the various processes. In the end, one either wins or loses. I believe a person who fears what could happen to him will not be able to win the votes he needs.

In addition, you have heard the rebels repeatedly say they are controlling the 14 Salvadoran departments. If that is true, then I do not see why they cannot guarantee security and votes. In addition, if they really have the support of the people, they do not even need to move from one place to another. They can campaign by television to win votes.

[Rivas] In your answer, you directly link the Democratic Merger with the rebel movement by saying that the former can have the support or protection of the FMLN. The Democratic Merger has denied this link, so I would like your opinion or that of the Salvadoran Armed Forces on this tie. The members of the Democratic Merger say they cannot even be accused of being accomplices, because they are only a political alliance and that since 1982, many Salvadoran parties have established all kinds of political alliances. The Democratic Merger also categorically denies that the FMLN is its armed branch. It instead claims that as a party, as the Democratic Merger, they have no links with the FMLN. Tell us, Gen Vides Casanova, can we separate the FDR from the FMLN? As members of the Democratic Merger, can they also be members of the FDR?

[Vides] I do not want to directly link the Democratic Merger with the FMLN. However, the FDR is undoubtedly linked to the Merger. Everyone knows that when Mr Ungo and Mr Zamora visited our country last time, they could not deny their absolute unity with the FMLN. I believe they understood they had made a big mistake. Part of that mistake resulted in only 200 members showing up at their convention at the Dario Theater. Now that Oqueli has arrived, they are trying to deny links with the FMLN, and they claim they do not share the same views. Now they say they are two different groups and philosophies...

[Rivas, interrupting] They say they will not boycott the elections.

[Vides] I do not think that is true. When referring to the Armed Forces, they have said that the military should be subordinated to civilian rule. I believe the military wing of the FMLN is subordinated to the political figures of the Democratic Merger.

[Rivas] What is the morale of your troops now that the FDR or FMLN members are back in our country?

[Vides] I have learned to listen to my men. We explain each problem to them, and we have not noticed low morale among them. Obviously, soldiers often dislike the way the media handles the arrival of certain people. This affects our soldiers, but their morale remains unchanged. Whether they like or dislike the arrival of certain people is a different question, but their morale remains unchanged.

[Rivas] What is the latest from the war front?

[Vides] We are meeting our objectives completely. For more than 4 years, the Armed Forces have maintained an offensive posture. We have not stopped our attacks, not even for 1 month.

You no longer hear the rebels saying that no one can reach areas such as Guazapa and the San Pedro Hills. Those areas have now been under our control for a long time. The rebels' actions are limited to small terrorist operations such as the destruction of bridges and ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] telephone booths. This only proves they are continuing to harm the Salvadoran people and the democratic process, because those bridges and telephone booths serve this process.

We have destabilized and thwarted the rebels' attacks on urban areas with the Phoenix Operation in Guazapa. The rebels have been unable to launch operations in urban areas and to begin general strikes as they had planned. If you have noticed, Radio Venceremos advertises great projects and offensives. It keeps saying that victory is near, but the truth is that the rebels are increasingly further away from victory. I honestly do not see any possibility of the rebels controlling an area or a neighborhood of San Salvador, much less controlling the entire country. They have been unable to do this.

[Rivas] One last question, Gen Vides Casanova. Some people are truly concerned about damage caused to private property during demonstrations by various groups. In addition, motorcyclists have been beaten up, vulgar language has been used against people, and many workers and people who work in areas where demonstrations take place have been affected. Other people condemn the passiveness of the Armed Forces on those occasions. What policy do you use in that kind of situation?

[Vides] On those occasions, we have tried to make our troops aware of the fact that when they participate in operations to maintain public order, they should remain calm until the last minute.

Unfortunately, on the news we hear of cases like Israel, which lost all its prestige because two policemen beat people with clubs. We know that we can do good work for a whole day, but that as soon as we injure someone, all the good we did becomes meaningless. We also know that if it is necessary to tolerate certain things to hold our head high before the international community, we must do this. It is better to put up with certain things than to act violently, as we did in the past.

[Rivas] How much could this harm or alter—what word can I use here—how much could this endanger the safety of the Salvadoran people?

[Vides] That is where we have to draw the line. We will not tolerate everything. There will be a time when we will have to act, and at that time we will have to act forcefully. What would happen, however, if during the strike of the Social Security workers, we acted violently and killed 100 people? What would the international image of the government and the nation have been then? Those workers probably would have stepped up their demonstrations, and we would have had 100 or 200 deaths the next day.

[Rivas] So, despite the labor-union nature of the protests, do you believe these demonstrators are provoking the police in order to obtain international support through the media?

[Vides] That is their hope. Obviously, they want deaths and injuries to continue their campaign. We have tried to act as calmly and tolerantly as possible. I am certain that as soldiers, we would like to win the war as soon as possible, without worrying about human rights and the like. While that attitude might help us win the war quickly, it would also start a new war the next day. What matters is to win this war while respecting the democratic process and the human rights of Salvadorans. If we have democratic institutions and the support of the people, we will be prepared for the hardest task: to achieve peace in El Salvador.

[Rivas] General, thank you very much. It has been a pleasure to speak with you about all these issues, and we hope to talk to you again soon.

[Vides] Thank you very much.

Nicaragua

Further on Ortega Visit to Western Europe

Stops in Sweden, Norway

PA011818 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Today, representatives of Sweden and Norway told Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, during his brief visit to Europe, that their countries would participate in verifying the peace agreement that the Central American countries are sponsoring.

In both countries, President Ortega stated that the area peace process will be seriously impaired if [the U.S.] Congress accepts President Reagan's request for more contra aid.

President Daniel Ortega arrived in Oslo, Norway, on a 2-hour flash visit. During the trip to the Presidency [as heard], despite the near 5-degree-below-zero temperature, the Nicaraguan delegation received a warm welcome from the Norwegian people. [sounds of people shouting "Viva!"]

The Nicaraguan president met with Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

In Sweden, Ortega met with Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson. An act of solidarity took place in the People's House:

[Begin Ortega recording] [Applause] Long live the friendship, fraternity, and brotherhood between the peoples of Sweden and Nicaragua! [applause] Reagan and his millions will not get through! [applause] [end recording]

This is the third stopover of the European tour that President Ortega began on 26 January. It has taken him to Spain and Italy, where the governments promised to actively participate in the Central American peace process.

Officials Discusses Power Shortage, Rationing

PA012352 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1830 GMT 1 Feb 88

[News conference by Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado; Deputy Minister of Industry Gilberto Guzman; and Emilio Rappaccioli, director of the Aqueducts and Sewers Institute; with unidentified reporters at the Information and Press Office of the Presidency in Managua, on 1 February—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ramirez]...[Passage indistinct] due to lack of maintenance of the energy generation and distribution system, which was caused by the economic boycott and lack of foreign exchange afflicting the country. This makes it impossible to import in a timely manner the spare parts needed to maintain our country's electric system. Consequently, the distribution network and energy generating plants...[changes thought] many of these plants are quite old. For example, the Managua plant, which works with bunker [preceding word in English] oil, has been in operation for more than 40 years. It should have been shut down by now, but since we cannot replace it, the plant has been kept in operation by precariously maintaining it. This does not fulfill all its needs.

We must state that the country needs at least $40 million to provide all the maintenance needed by the energy production and distribution network, and thus be able to guarantee that the system will operate normally. We must also mention the destruction of electricity-generation plants: for example, the counterrevolution's terrorist attack on Los Minerales and the constant destruction of primary and secondary electric towers in regions afflicted by the war. The counterrevolution concentrates its terrorist attacks on those targets, and we cannot possibly protect each and every one of them on a 24-hour basis. We must also mention the use of explosives to destroy electric transmission towers that bring us electricity from Honduras. This electricity is not only used by Nicaragua, but it is also sent through Nicaragua to Costa Rica and Panama. Those countries are not facing a war, but they are affected by rationing and an energy crisis due to different reasons.

We also have another important factor: the delay in our development plans. This delay was caused by the aggression against Nicaragua, and has precluded the increase of

our energy-generating capacity. Despite all this, we have managed to finish the Asturias project for increasing our capacity to store water at the Apanas Dam. We practically built this project with our fingernails because the IDB loans for this project could not be fully disbursed due to the economic boycott the U.S. Government has implemented against Nicaragua.

Likewise, the Italian Government's cooperation allowed us to complete the first phase of the Momotombo geothermal plant, so we can use the steam from the volcano. The first plant is already operating and, as we all know, has a 35-megawatt capacity. We have stepped up work to complete the second phase of that project—always with the cooperation of the Italian Government—to generate an additional 35 megawatts. However, the great energy projects in the country—the (Movoika) and Copalar Hydroelectric Dams in the Central Atlantic region—have not been begun due to the aggression against Nicaragua.

Therefore, we have suffered an energy crisis in recent years. The country is currently experiencing a worsening of this crisis due to additional factors. These include a serious breakdown in the thermal generation plant that, as we stated, runs on fuel. Also, there are problems with the generators of the Managua plant. We are working on a round-the-clock basis to repair them. Likewise, one of the outlets in a unit at the Nicaragua plant—the (Ticuco) plant on the Pacific Ocean—is undergoing maintenance work. We had to shut down the unit for some major repairs on its boilers.

We must also add what we mentioned earlier: [There are] the attacks on the transmission lines running from Honduras that allow us to receive energy from Honduras—or send energy to Honduras at any given time—through the interconnecting system; the constant destruction of towers; and third, the strong winds in the country that have felled many towers. Consequently, we do not have enough energy available to meet the country's current consumption demands. We cannot use more water from the Apanas Dam because that would lower the water reserves, and we would then face an even greater crisis in the dry season, between March and April. Water is a resource that we must conserve and use rationally. We can generate electricity at the Apanas Dam without endangering that source of water, because the consequences would be even worse. Due to this energy crisis, in January we implemented a nationwide energy-rationing system by shutting down the system 3 hours a day.

That is not a solution to the crisis. We must change our plans, because we are harming manufactured [as heard] and agricultural-export production. We are currently making great efforts to harvest our coffee and cotton, to maintain our sugar and banana production, and to keep meat and seafood in cold-storage rooms. This is because these are our sources for dollars, which are essential to the country's economy.

Thus, after analyzing this situation, we realized that for the next 6 weeks—until we repair the Managua and (Ticuco) plants, where we are working arduously—we will have to choose...[changes thought] we want to tell the country that we decided not to shut power down in installations that are connected with the harvests, which are our source of income.

Therefore, in accordance with production needs, we will supply uninterrupted energy to coffee processsing units, cotton gins, sugar mills, slaughter houses, cold-storage rooms for meat and seafood, banana plantations, and irrigation systems for rice. These are our priorities.

We cannot continue shutting off power to sugar mills, cotton gins, coffee processing units, and rice irrigation systems. This is because these power interruptions are severely harming production, and they would end up reducing our exports. Since we decided to emphasize agricultural-export production, we must sacrifice in other consumption areas.

We will now announce an emergency plan for electricity consumption, because this is a national emergency.

First, this month we authorized the Industry Ministry, which coordinated activities with the Labor Ministry and the various labor unions, to lower production at a number of industrial plants in Managua and other regions. These plants will operate with smaller shifts, and they will either completely shut down for 3 to 4 weeks or maintain limited production.

The plants affected by the electricity rationing are:

Pesa, Fanatex, Percat, Tecalsa, Nicalit [previous five companies not further identified], Tecnisa [Nicaraguan Textile Industry], Polycasa [Polymer Central America, S.A.], Agrosa [Oilseed Agricultural Industry], Chamorro Industry, Presto Coffee, Borden Chemical Industry, and Plywood of Nicaragua. The Milca and Ensa [not further identified] plants will be slightly affected, because their work schedules will be somewhat curtailed.

The electricity rationing, which will directly affect the aforementioned plants, will save us additional energy. The decision on which plants are affected is based on the amount of electricity they use. These plants consume a high amount of electricity. We also made this decision based on their inventories of raw materials, maintenance programs, and the amount of finished products on hand, to avoid affecting the consumption of products these factories make.

In addition, this morning we met with the workers from each of these factories. We explained the electricity-rationing plans at their factories. We must say the workers accepted these measures with great patriotism. During the 1st week of the emergency plan, we will carry out maintenance that does not require electricity. Workers will implement maintenance programs and clean the

factories. However, most of the workers decided to join emergency brigades to help in the coffee and cotton harvests. Thus our labor will be reinforced now that we need to harvest quickly—especially the coffee harvest—because the December rains ripened the crops sooner than expected. We must harvest coffee as soon as possible to fulfill our export quota.

We must say that the industrial workers displayed a very patriotic attitude to help the government overcome the electricity problem. In addition, workers also decided to take part in other tasks outside their factories.

We also worked out with the workers the payment they will receive during the 6 weeks of the emergency program, at the end of which we will resume our regular supply of electricity to all industrial plants. The payment is based on their current salaries.

In addition, we authorized a new emergency schedule for the various ministries and decentralized, autonomous institutions. As of this week, the state and autonomous institutions will be open from 0800 to 1300. This schedule will reduce energy consumption by those institutions, and the energy we save in this sector will then be used to harvest agricultural-export products.

Third, we have also given orders to decrease the number of broadcasting hours of the two television channels so that during this emergency period, the television broadcasting schedule will be limited to between 1800 to 2200; that is, 4 hours a day.

Fourth, we will implement, according to detailed schedules that the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, INE, will start publishing in the newspapers tomorrow, a nationwide daytime rationing of electricity for use in homes between 0800 and 1800, for a maximum of 3 hours a day. This rationing will be done in an orderly fashion by alternating electrical circuits, so that every home will receive 3 fewer hours of electricity during the day. We are going to try to keep the electricity flowing after 1800.

We are appealing to the Nicaraguan people to cooperate with the government during this emergency that, I repeat, will last for the next 6 weeks, to save electricity in every way possible. Let us use as little electricity as possible. This goes for homes, offices, businesses, and services. The patriotic, voluntary savings that are made during this emergency can instead be used for irrigation, coffee-processing plants, cotton gins, and the beef and seafood cold-storage rooms, which are the most important things that we want to maintain.

The increased shortage of electricity we are experiencing will be resolved in the next 6 weeks when the repairs to the boilers at the (Ticuco) power plant—the Nicaragua plant—are completed.

If we complete them, as we hope we are going to do—and we are working intensely to do so—these repairs, if there is no interruption in the electricity we receive from Honduras, will improve the situation by the first 2 weeks of March. Nevertheless, we must take into account that not all factors depend on the desire of the government, or the INE. Other interruptions could occur due to criminal acts, terrorist acts, or other causes. We wish to caution the people that if this should occur, we will be obliged, within this emergency plan, to try to resolve this situation. This will be done with the understanding that the emphasis will always be on not interrupting the electricity needed to get the harvests in during these months. These are critical months for the harvests.

These are the announcements we had to make in the name of the Nicaraguan Government. We wish to ask for the understanding of every Nicaraguan in this difficult time. These are not conditions we wanted, and we are going to resolve them. We are working intensely to overcome them, but we will not achieve this unless we have the cooperation of every customer. Let us all contribute a large quota of patriotic desire to use electricity rationally over the next few weeks. Let us understand that the rationing is necessary, and that it will be done in an orderly fashion. The workers who were suspended from the industrial plants that we listed understood, and announced their desire not only to accept the measures, but also to join the brigades of coffee cutters and cotton pickers.

If the journalists who are here have any questions, we are willing to have the companeros of the cabinet in attendance answer them.

[Reporter] This is the first question. Mr Vice President, according to Honduran newspapers, Honduras is, or was, losing 80,000 lempiras a day in its sales of electricity to Nicaragua and Costa Rica due to the contra attacks against the transmission lines. Can you tell us what the situation is? Is this transmission line still out of commission, or has it been repaired?

[Ramirez] No, the transmission line that was blown up last week by specialized terrorist groups of the counterrevolution financed by the U.S. Government was repaired. The line is again carrying power from Honduras. We are receiving electricity from Honduras over this line during the day, and electricity is also being transmitted to Costa Rica and Panama. Both are receiving electricity from Honduras. The towers that were blown up are near the border with Honduras, in Chinandega Department. To prevent further interruptions due to terrorist acts, the Honduran Government has a large role to play by preventing the terrorist gangs that seek to destroy this system—whose destruction is detrimental to Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama—from infiltrating across the Honduran border.

[Reyes] Companero Javier Reyes from Radio Sandino. There are other basic services, such as water. What is the water supply situation going to be? Also, perhaps you can expand on the urgency of getting the harvests in. How are the brigades going to be organized, how many men are needed, and what other sectors of the population that have not been enlisted—such as the factories you listed—could cooperate in this effort?

[Ramirez] Well, the companies listed, the workers, and the unions in each of these factories have been working since this morning on the lists of volunteers who are going to help with the harvests. Right now we need 6,000 men to pick coffee, which is our most urgent situation. We need fewer men to pick cotton and to cut sugarcane.

As for the interruption of water service, I am going to ask Companero Emilio Rappaccioli to explain how we are going to stabilize the water supply under this rationing plan.

[Moderator] This is Eng Emilio Rappaccioli, director of the Nicaraguan Aqueducts and Sewers Institute [INAA].

[Rappaccioli] As we have already explained on other occasions, the different circuits that branch out from the substations throughout Nicaragua, and which supply Managua, Leon, Granada, and other cities, and even rural areas, do not only carry electricity to INAA water pumps. They also carry electricity to homes, industries, businesses, etc. Therefore, it is very difficult, or impossible, to avoid INAA pumps from being shut down unless we permanently disconnect certain consumers. In selecting the circuits [to be disconnected], we have considered the INAA pumps, so there will be as few interruptions as possible.

With the current rationing system, which we will give to you in writing for publication, we call this level one. Every circuit will be affected only once between 0800—as Dr Ramirez said—and 1800. That is, the INAA pumps will have electricity, but not the amount needed to supply water on a continuous basis, according to the INAA rationing plan. However, the situation will not be that serious.

[Victor Reyes] Victor Reyes, from BARRICADA. Mr Acting President, two questions. How many workers have been directly affected by power rationing or the partial shutdown of their plants, and to what extent do you believe that acute pressures such as this could encourage the Reagan administration to continue financing the counterrevolution?

[Ramirez] Here we have all been, as we all know-...[changes thought] the Nicaraguan people know it [acute pressure] because they have experienced the Reagan administration's constant siege and its plan to make the Nicaraguan people surrender from hunger by forcing on them all manner of limitations. As we all know, this objective has not been attained. This difficult energy crisis, this acute shortage, will be overcome. We have the initiative and the organization to do so. We are in control of the situation, and that is why we can take these measures to overcome this crisis in the next 6 weeks. Nevertheless, the blockade hits us on all sides. We have fewer spare parts than we should have, and fewer raw materials with which to produce.

We are experiencing an economic crisis that has been caused by aggression. This can only be resolved by the new peace conditions that the revolutionary government is trying to attain by any possible means.

I am going to ask Comrade Gilberto Guzman, deputy minister of industry, to explain matters concerning the workers who will be affected by plant shutdowns and the temporary measures.

[Guzman] Well yes, as part of the programs we prepared to resolve this situation, we considered it of utmost importance to affect industrial production and the labor force as little as possible. The large amount of workers at the aforementioned firms will only be partially affected, because those firms will not totally cease their production. For example, Elpesa [Electrochemical Pennwalt, S.A.], a plant that produces caustic soda and chlorine, cannot be shut down due to the nature of its work. However, they will reduce production to approximately 70 percent of its [normal] daily production, while always working 24-hour shifts. Thus, energy savings will be considerable. This firm's workers will not be affected because it will continue to operate 24 hours.

The majority of the workers in textile firms will be directly affected because these firms will have to suspend one shift. Fanatex and Tecnisa are firms with over 1,200 workers apiece, and each one of their shifts has 400 or 420 workers. The shift that will be suspended is the afternoon one, and this suspension would affect that amount of workers mentioned each shift. However, during the 1st week, the effect would be partial, because workers would be assigned to other jobs within the factory. The remaining 5 weeks is where we would combine efforts with our companions of the CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers] to observe, for example, mobilization activities or the coffee-crop harvest tasks mentioned by the acting president.

The other aforementioned firms, including those in the oilseed industry, are paralyzed because they are presently receiving their raw materials as the harvest progresses. We believe that 15 days will not hit them so hard, and that they will be able to maintain themselves without massive layoffs. In the other cases including firms to be affected for 15 days, we are attempting to maintain activity within the plants without direct effects—such as getting volunteers for mobilization. This has been the way we have designed this system: 15 days for one firm and 15 days for another—firms that for different reasons are working below capacity.

[Reporter] I believe that from a technical point of view—as much as I understand it—the revolutionary government's plan is almost perfect for countering the country's energy shortage. I would like to know whether the revolutionary government has also studied a political mobilization to raise the political and social consciousness of the Nicaraguan masses, so the impact of the trauma it will cause to the workers will not affect their revolutionary morale.

[Guzman] As we explained, labor organizations are in charge of implementing this mobilization. This morning's assemblies at the plants, where workers were informed of these emergency measures, were successful politically as well as in terms of morale. The workers responded immediately. The same thing happened with state employees. They organize work brigades for community projects in Managua during the time or the hours they are not working. This way, we will also take advantage of this situation to do work that will benefit the community with the help of all the comrades who will not be at their normal jobs over the next few weeks. We are implementing these measures with a tremendous amount of trust. We know the awareness that the Nicaraguan people have displayed during all the hardships in recent years makes us confident that we will enjoy the backing of the diverse sectors of the Nicaraguan people.

[Campo] Alberto Campo of Radio Sandino. I would like to know if the government can estimate how much the country's economy will be affected, or what impact this situation will have. Also, have some measures been considered, particularly those designed to protect the working class, which has shown the greatest cooperation and which is bearing the brunt of the crisis war generated by the war? These measures should try to curb the opportunism that is especially noticeable in the informal market sectors. The hoarding of products greatly affects the net wages of workers. There are workers who will be transferred to productive companies and who are not hesitant to go. Is MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] going to adopt some measures?

[Guzman] First, we possess a detailed estimate on the economic damage that energy rationing will have on production. However, we wish to say that the way the rationing was initially implemented was more detrimental than the current practice. It previously affected all production equally, whereas now we are protecting export production 100 percent. Still, industrial production will be limited. Later we will observe the damage in terms of amounts and volume in the indexes that are being prepared.

As for the workers who are being hurt by these measures, we have already stated that the labor organizations are holding talks on wages with these companies. No worker will be left out on the street. No worker will stop earning his wages due to the energy emergency. Their mobilization for the harvest is on a voluntary basis. Therefore, some companies will agree with their workers to give them their vacation pay. Other companies will make other decisions. The Labor Ministry is directing each company to negotiate this sort of solution with each labor union. Therefore, the workers' pay will not be affected.

[Reporter] Do you think this group of critical factors has a very high political cost now, when the world's attention is focused on Nicaragua? There currently is propaganda from diverse sectors. In your opinion, has this cost been the support of the people?

[Guzman] The support of the people has different manifestations. I think one of the chief failures of the terrorist policies that have been implemented against Nicaragua is the inability to destroy the national consensus on the revolution. We can easily see this in the number of people who attend the public political demonstrations. These demonstrations can now be held in Nicaragua thanks to the full freedom guaranteed by the Nicaraguan Constitution. Therefore, the Nicaraguan people possess a huge moral treasure. This is not a matter of likes or dislikes. Rather, it is a matter of adhering to a patriotic cause. This patriotic cause has been proven throughout a war that has now raged for 6 years. Thousands of people have been killed, wounded, or maimed. The war has brought destruction.

A crime has been perpetrated against the Nicaraguan people. I have the impression—and I am certain of it—that the Nicaraguan people have emerged stronger from this test. If we achieve peace, we will march with greater strength toward that new period of peace that will begin for Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Dr Ramirez, I have two questions. One is related to the issue of fuel. What percentage of the country's needs has the Nicaraguan Government been able to obtain? My second question is: Did the government not consider changing the time in order to have more daylight and thus save energy?

[Ramirez] We believe that the gas supply will be back to normal at the start of next week. Barring an unforeseen event, the gas supply will be normal as of next week. The lines at gas stations and the problems in getting diesel fuel or gasoline were caused by a delay in the shipments that the country should have received in January. This delay has forced stoppages at the oil refinery. We believe this situation will be resolved next week. However, this does not mean that later this year there will not be other fuel consumption problems like the current one. This can happen again. We are not here to give a false claim of total normalcy, because times are not normal for Nicaragua. We do not produce oil. We must import it from abroad, from far away, from the USSR and other countries. Therefore, the fuel problem has caused a very tense situation. However, we may overcome the current problem next week, and the fuel supply may return to normal.

[Reporter] I would like to thank you coming.

Panama

Crusade Urges Military, People To Save Nation

PA312019 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 88 p 6a

[Statement "To the Military and the Panamanian People," issued by the National Executive Committee of the National Civic Crusade in Panama City on 30 January 1988]

[Text] Due to recent evidence provided by Panamanian and U.S. citizens against General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP] that compromises high-ranking FDP officers and some of Noriega's close civilian aides, U.S. judicial authorities will bring criminal charges for crimes related to the arms and drug trafficking and the laundering of money obtained through these illicit activities.

This situation is unbearable and shameful, because high-ranking officials of the Panamanian Government will become fugitives from justice at the international level. Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Panama, which by law should initiate the corresponding criminal investigation, has not done so and will not do so. This is because it is linked to the particular interests of the accused.

Throughout all these years, the country has been led by a small group of criminals who have dishonored the uniform of the institution to which they belong, and the flag that they have sworn to respect. They have used the military institution as a private army, an instrument of crime instead of legality. Similarly, the powers and organs of the state have been used for the same purposes, thus bringing about an inversion of values and a disregard for justice, freedom, democracy, and honesty.

As a result of the foregoing, and with the events of the past few months culminating in the announced criminal trial, we are today experiencing the most profound political, social, economic, fiscal, and moral crisis in our history. Fortunately, the Panamanian citizenry has reacted vigorously and bravely to the crisis, in an effort to lift the country out of its present situation.

With the trial of the FDP commander in chief and his aides, Panama will be isolated, having merely formal diplomatic relations with the democratic nations of the world. As a result of this, our nationality will be discredited, and the Panamanian people will suffer the economic and political consequences of that international ostracism. Internally, economic and fiscal problems will worsen, which will inevitably lead to unprecedented unemployment that will strike first and foremost at the most needy sectors of our society.

Therefore, it is obvious that a prompt and far-reaching solution is needed to restructure the country around the basic institutions shared by all civilized societies. This is so we can return to the path of legality and democracy on which the citizen can believe that the institutions are at the service of all and not of a special group, and on which the FDP can take the proper place assigned to them by the national Constitution.

In view of all the foregoing, we call upon the honest officers, noncommissioned officers, and men of the FDP by pointing out that at this time, it is their duty to rescue the institution they belong to and bring it in line with the national Constitution. The Panamanian people, expressing themselves through the National Civic Crusade, will recognize the decision of the officers who, based on the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy, act in concert with the citizens to achieve those aims.[boldface as published]

Similarly, we call upon all Panamanians, without distinctions of any kind, to remain in a state of PATRIOTIC ALERT [last two words published in upper case]. We call upon them to act in accordance with the course of events to save the nation from the state of chaos to which it is subjected, and to bring about the deep-seated changes that the nation urgently demands.

Panama, 30 January 1988

Opposition Leader Interviewed by Continente

PA011745 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with opposition leader Gabriel Lewis Galindo, in Washington D.C., by Mayin Correa, in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correa] How are you?

[Lewis] Very well, thank you. I am very glad that you are on the air once again. First of all, I want to send warm greetings to you, Lucho [Luis Estribi, Radio Continente commentator], the Panamanian people, Canitas [station owner Rodrigo Correa], and all the boys at Radio Continente.

[Correa] What is your opinion of the comments that spokesmen for General Noriega have made concerning the hearings in both the U.S. Senate and a federal court in Florida? The only comment Noriega's spokesmen have made on this was the statement by Jorge Eduardo Ritter, Panama's permanent representative to the United Nations, which was published by the government newspapers. He discusses a circus spectacle in the Senate which has summoned drug traffickers to testify about their relations with Gen Noriega. He said: I do not want for my country a democracy in which convicted drug traffickers go to Congress to obtain a reduction in their sentences. He also said Panama has cooperated with the U.S. fight against drugs. The general has even published a book "The Truth About Panama," which includes letters congratulating Panama for its struggle against drugs. Ritter stated that those who have participated in

this gross farce against Gen Noriega—he is referring to the Senate and the Congress—[words indistinct]. I would like to hear your opinion on this. Is it true that those who are struggling alongside the Panamanian people, who are seeking democracy in Panama, are only extreme reactionary or extreme rightist forces? Would you comment on the opinions of Jorge Eduardo Ritter, the ambassador to the United Nations?

[Lewis] I would be happy to, Mayin. I hope that Radio Continente will remain on the air and that this will not just be temporary. I frankly believe that what will not continue very long will be Noriega's regime. As for your question, it makes me laugh that a young man like Jorge Ritter, who had a promising future and who is the son of an honorable man, has decided to place his knowledge at the service of four gorillas who together do not have the talent of a chimpanzee. He has chosen the road of servility, which is unfortunate since it sets a bad example for our youth.

In any case, Ritter says that the United States has presented a drug trafficker in hearings and that he does not want that type of democracy for our country. I imagine that the democracy he hopes for is the one we have, in which there is a de facto chief of state like Noriega who is a drug trafficker. He does not want witnesses.

What he wants is a government headed by drug traffickers. I say this because the evidence presented in recent days about Noriega's links with drug trafficking leaves no room for doubt about this man's criminal activities. He has turned our country into the trash can of Latin America and an international disgrace. In order to fill his pockets and his bank accounts, Noriega has been poisoning the youth of the world by permitting all these Colombian and Bolivian drug traffickers to use our territory. He has leased and sold our territory for the most disgraceful business that has ever existed—the drug trafficking that operates through Panama. Therefore, I do not think that any more comment about Ritter's statements is needed. No serious newspaper in the world has published them. As long as they are only published in the ERSA [Renovacion Publishing Company] newspapers, they will only be read by the leader who pays the money to print them. They have no effect. They are only wasting paper and ink on shit, because the world knows who Noriega is.

As for the [U.S.] senators who have been giving us support, I want to tell you first of all, that if there was the slightest move toward not turning over the canal according to the treaties, I would be the first one to oppose this. Ths is because if it had not been for my efforts—and I have letters from Torrijos and Carter—they would not have been able to achieve the treaty. I am not saying that I worked harder than each of them, but I worked alongside them, and they recognized what I did. I do not care what those guys who are working with Noriega call me. They are the ones who will want to praise me tomorrow. I couldn't care less about them.

As a matter of fact, the people who have supported us are the liberals. They are the liberals and moderates, such as Senator Kerry, who is regarded as an ultraliberal; Senator Cranston, an ultraliberal; Senator Kennedy, a liberal; and Senator Sarbanes, a liberal. I can list a few more: Senator D'Amato is a moderate; Senator Durenberger, a Republican like D'Amato, also is a moderate. We have received a unanimous vote from (?100) senators. They include all ideologies. There are ultraconservatives such as Helms, with whom, by the way, I have never spoken. He is not among those I consider my friends. However, Senator Helms also has an important role to play, because he has been criticizing corruption in Panama. Gen Noriega has undoubtedly received congratulatory letters from the Drug Enforcement Agency [DEA]. The DEA has been playing games with him, and this has been criticized here on many occasions. It is a real tragedy that officials of U.S. agencies have said... [changes thought] have covered up Noriega's major crimes just because he has turned a few small-time drug traffickers over to them. I think that in the case of these U.S. officials, one can say they have been penny-wise and pound-foolish. I think this has already been straightened out, however, since they will be held accountable to the American people when Noriega's indictment is returned next week.

[Correa] [Question indistinct]

[Lewis] They will be made to answer for that letter.

[Correa] Yes, I understand some politicians are going to demand explanations for that letter. One time I even asked Attorney General Edwin Meese himself about a letter congratulating Noriega. Meese replied that he was tired of asking the administration for evidence against Noriega, and that nobody gave him any.

I wanted to talk to you about the evidence (?since you are keeping more abreast of this) in Washington. I am going to read to you from the book "The Truth About Panama—16 Years of Struggle Against Drugs," which the National Guard published and circulated to all consulates. On pages 81 and 82 it refers to the trial of Monchi Torrijos [Ramon Torrijos, brother of Gen Omar Torrijos] in New York, where an arrest warrant was even issued against him for involvement in drug trafficking. Apparently, no evidence was submitted on that occasion, and the case was closed. Will the same thing happen in Gen Noriega's case? Cases are opened, but then no evidence is presented. They have always claimed that no evidence has been presented. Do the U.S. Senate or the federal authorities have any evidence, or do those testifying have any proof of the charges being filed against Gen Noriega and other military men and civilians in Panama?

[Lewis] Mayin, these matters are submitted to a jury. I will not give you a lecture on this, since I am not a lawyer. I am interested in this case, however, and I have made inquiries among lawyer friends of mine who are familiar with the U.S. legal system. They tell me that to provide more protection to defendants in federal cases of this nature, there are two stages. This case first has to go to a grand jury, which decides whether to issue an indictment. [passage omitted]

[Correa] But I believe the federal grand jury will bring an indictment against Gen Noriega. That is what I have heard.

[Lewis] According to the reports published in all the newspapers, the proof is overwhelming, and reporters here have no doubt that an indictment will be brought against him next week.

[Correa] What would the consequences for our country be should the commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] be tried in the United States?

[Lewis] Well, Mayin, there will be no consequences for the country, because we have to begin to separate the country from Noriega. No one in any Western country will want to have anything to do with Noriega, because the U.S. courts...

[Correa, interrupting] But Noriega says he wants the canal back, right? He maintains he is being persecuted because he is going to...

[Lewis, interrupting] This has nothing to do with the canal. Moreover, this is a decision by a jury. Noriega has always tried to link his fate to that of the nation. Noriega has always tried to link his fate to that of the FDP. This issue is absolutely unrelated to the country and the FDP, and I take this opportunity to appeal to the members of the FDP: Do not tie your fate to that of Noriega, the criminal. You have a much greater duty to the fatherland than to Noriega. You should be a part of the Civic Crusade. You should be a part of the people's protest. You cannot continue to support, with your rifles and other weapons, someone who will become a fugitive from justice next week. If an open indictment is issued, Mayin, first, police forces worldwide are notified. Second, Noriega's face will appear in all U.S. post offices with the word wanted beneath it.

You can understand that no one will want to touch him with a 10-foot pole. It will therefore be very shameful for a country to have a de facto ruler...[changes thought] Noriega is a de facto ruler, since Delvalle is not the ruler. We know this, and so does the entire world. No one speaks of the Delvalle government. No newspaper does. They talk about the Noriega government. It would therefore be very shameful to have a de facto ruler who is a fugitive from U.S. justice. It would be the same thing that happened to Robert Vesco, who is now in hiding in Cuba.

I believe we have reached the end. It is like being at the movies when, after the film has been shown, you see a dark screen. The film is over, and there is nothing left. It has been exhaustively proven that Noriega is a criminal. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, Ritter asked how come all the witnesses are drug traffickers. Well, because those are the people Noriega hangs around. Didn't Noriega hang around with Cesar Rodriguez? Didn't Noriega hang around with Floyd Carlton? Doesn't he hang around with Carlos Witgreen and [Enrigue] Pretelt? Those are the names mentioned by the drug trafficker who is testifying before the U.S. Senate. [passage omitted]

[Correa] Our country is currently experiencing a situation unheard of in our history. What lies in store for our nation?

[Lewis] Mayin, the Blandon plan includes many positive things. They are practically the same things that the Crusade has mentioned as being necessary to prepare for elections. The Blandon plan says that in order to avoid more problems, Delvalle should head the provisional government that would be formed once Noriega steps down. It is established in the Constitution that Mr Delvalle has the authority to fire, remove, or suspend Noriega from office. However, he does not dare do this because he lacks the necessary guts and leadership. Unless he wakes up one morning and finds that he has the guts to remove Noriega, Mr Delvalle will have to leave with Mr Noriega. I think that Mr Delvalle has already proven that he does not plan to do this. Delvalle has now started pressing charges against the press and other media since they reported on the nation's economic situation. The press was only quoting Catin Vasquez [minister of planning]. Catin Vasquez made those statements in New York during a meeting with the banks, and he has repeated the same thing many times. I have spoken with some World Bank officials, and they have told me what Catin Vasquez said. Minister Vasquez told these people that in February the government will have to fire 20,000 government employees. When the Defense Forces heard about this, they called a meeting of the General Staff; and [Colonel Leonidas] Macias—now it seems that he is an economist—said: Well now, we must find a solution to this problem. We are not going to fire the 20,000 workers. Instead, we are going to cut the wages of 150,000 government employees. Macias has one way of solving the problem, and Catin Vasquez has his own way of solving it. But no matter which solution is used to correct the problem, someone will get hurt. Either 20,000 people are fired, or 150,000 will have their wages cut by at least 25 percent.

Mayin, Noriega is going to have quite a problem on his hands as of 1 February. He is going to have to fire all those people. They are asking the World Bank to lend them the money they need to pay some interest due, some $30 or $40 million, and they will fire those

employees. The World Bank is not asking them to fire those employees. What the bank does not want them to do is to continue wasting money.

[Correa] Then you see no other way out for Gen Noriega and [words indistinct]?

[Lewis] None. The international institutions...

[Correa interrupts] But the socialist countries are helping him.

[Lewis] Those countries don't have enough money to help themselves, much less help anyone else. The serious international institutions have the money to help Panama once a serious government is in office. Rest assured that the minute Noriega leaves, Panama will profit. Geographically, we have a very important location. However, no one wants to help a country where only one man rules and where that man is much more powerful than the law; a country where there are no guarantees for the citizen or for foreigners.

[Correa] Gabriel Lewis Galindo, thank you very much for your statements.

Government Summons Civic Crusade Leaders
PA310318 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Jan 88 p 1-A

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon filed a complaint with Panama's 8th Circuit District Attorney Gilberto Leon Gomez against four people linked with the National Civic Crusade.

Three businessmen and one teacher will have to appear at 1030 on Monday before the district attorney. They are CONEP [National Council of Private Enterpise] President Alberto Boyd, Carlos Ernesto De La Lastra, Carlos Valencia, and teacher-trade union leader Rogelio Douglas.

Details were supplied by Jose Manuel Faundes, legal representative for the CONEP president.

The lawyer said he found out about the summons at the 8th District Attorney's office, where he learned the crusade leaders' summons is for allegedly inciting civil disobedience and drawing up a proposal for a transition to democracy.

The CONEP president's legal representative believes no crime has been committed that could warrant this order, because the crusaders' stance is merely political.

CONEP President Alberto Boyd told LA PRENSA "private enterprise will know how to energetically respond, with all available resources, against any new persecution of business leaders."

The business leader added "no summons or jail will intimidate us or shut us up, because our principles of justice, freedom, and democracy will not allow it."

Alberto Boyd said he is not going to refuse to appear at the 8th District Attorney's office at 1030 on 1 February.

"We shall be there, because if we are calling for justice, we should obey this summons."

When asked if he would leave the country because of possible repressive measures, he replied "the only way they will get me out of the country is if they force me onto a plane; otherwise I prefer to remain in jail."

Boyd also said private enterprise asks and demands rectification in Panama.

As of yesterday, Boyd had been the only person notified, because the other three crusaders are abroad.

Following the statement by the CONEP president, National Civic Crusade members held an improvised news conference, where one of the leaders, Carlos Abadia, said the Civic Crusade will continue struggling peacefully for democracy, honesty, and justice.

Regarding the summons, Abadia said this is the second intimidation step in 2 days, since LA PRENSA journalist Flor Quintero was also summoned because of a report she wrote.

Alberto Boyd Arrested
PA012318 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1957 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Report on 1 February arrest of National Council of Private Enterprise, CONEP President Alberto Boyd—monitored in progress]

[Text] [Boyd]...civil disobedience.

[Station announcer] Those were the reasons why you were arrested. We will now listen to National Civic Crusade lawyer Jose Manuel Faundes.

[Begin recording] [Faundes] I respectfully told the district attorney there were not enough reasons to arrest Alberto Boyd now. As for a leaflet describing a transition to a democratic government, I have repeated—and let the international media know—that this is no crime in any part of the world. It is barely intent, and intent is no crime according to universal legal principles. A citizen can hope his country will improve, and can hope for a series of factors that will lead the country on a good path, and this—I repeat—is no crime in any part of the world.

[Reporter] What sentence has been imposed?

[Faundes] No sentence has been imposed yet, he is under temporary arrest. We will have to present a writ of habeas corpus to the district attorney or we will have to request bail.

With the right we have to speak without fear of repression or any consequence, I want all Panamanians to know that once again there is injustice, persecution, and intimidation against all citizens, and we cannot tolerate this.

[Reporter] Other persons have been summoned today. What are you expecting?

[Faundes] Other citizens have been summoned, and we will wait to see how they will answer the summons. [end recording]

[Announcer] We now have statements by Eduardo Vallarino, member of the Panamanian Human Rights Commission.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What do you have to say about today's arrest of CONEP President Alberto Boyd?

[Vallarino] It is a violation of human rights, which the Panamanian Government is committed [to protect] through the Inter-American Human Rights Agreement and the UN Charter. In addition to being a member of the Human Rights Commission, I am the honorary president of CONEP, and as such, I hereby state that personally, and on behalf of all CONEP members, we hereby state we are in solidarity with Alberto Boyd. We feel, think, and say exactly what he said today. In other words, if he is a prisoner, then we are all prisoners, as well.

[Reporter] What measures would the private sector take in view of this pressure exerted today on CONEP president?

[Vallarino] In the first place, we will take a legal step. We are going to resort to all legal means, both local and international. First, we will resort to the national authorities. As we have said, they have shown today they are not acting according to their conscience, but rather they are following orders. Immediately after that, we will resort to international courts of justice. Today, we will file charges at the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission and other similar organizations.

[Reporter] Is there any chance of calling for a stoppage or strike?

[Vallarino] This will have to be discussed within CONEP, which will immediately hold an urgent meeting. [end recording]

[Station announcer] Dear listeners of Radio Continente: In our "Making Radio" [Haciendo Radio] Program, you have just listened to statements by CONEP President Alberto Boyd, lawyer Jose Manuel Faundes, and Eduardo Vallarino, who gave us details about the arrest this afternoon at 1340 at the 8th District Court of Panama City of CONEP President Alberto Boyd.

Civic Crusade Leader Arrested

PA020429 Paris AFP in Spanish 0256 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 1 Feb (AFP)—Official sources reported tonight that Panamanian businessman Carlos E. Gonzalez de la Lastra was arrested by the authorities today and charged with attacking "the state's image."

De la Lastra, a leader of the opposition Civic Crusade, is the second businessmen arrested today by order of the Attorney General's Office.

This afternoon Panamanian authorities arrested Alberto Boyd, president of the National Council of Private Enterprise, after he made statements at the Attorney General's Office.

Panamanian businessmen have increased their campaign of accusations against Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega in the last few days. The opposition considers Gen Noriega the true power behind President Eric Arturo Delvalle's government.

The opposition is requesting Gen Noriega's ouster and the formation of a provisional government that would "lead the country toward democracy."

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office summoned former FDP Chief Gen Ruben D. Paredes, retired, to make statements on 4 February [as received]. Paredes has also made statements criticizing Gen Noriega.

Arias Calderon Says State in 'Criminal Hands'

PA010010 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 88 p 32-A

[Article by Flor Quintero]

[Text] "The Panamanian State is currently in criminal hands that are abusing the public force and betraying all the ideals and principles of the military profession. The reputation of the institution has been discredited before the local and international communities," Christian Democratic Party President Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, told LA PRENSA, referring to the charges against General Manuel Antonio Noriega made before the U.S. Senate by drug trafficker Michael Kalish.

"This same criminal power is corrupting the civilized coexistence in our nation; repressing the desire for democracy, justice, and honesty that has been expressed by an overwhelming majority of Panamanians; and

endangering the fulfillment of our nationalist demands regarding the canal and its neutrality. This is leading our country to an unprecedented disaster," Arias Calderon said.

The Panamanian politician added: "Democratic Panamanians do not seek to destroy the Defense Forces as an institution, and have only held Gen Noriega and a small group of military and civilian accomplices responsible for the criminal power."

'Anti-Noriega Paranoia' Charged

PA011600 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jan88

[Text] Jorge Ritter, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations, today charged that some U.S. officials have an anti-Noriega paranoia. He also described a U.S. Senate hearing as a circus. According to an EFE report, Ambassador Ritter sent a strong protest note stating that: The United States speaks to us about independent democracy and justice; however, I do not want my country to have a type of democracy in which convicted drug traffickers appear before Congress to buy a reduction in their sentences. This was Ambassador Ritter's reaction to the statements made yesterday before a U.S. Senate committee by Stephen Kalish, a convicted drug trafficker. Kalish accused General Noriega of being involved in drug money-laundering operations. Ambassador Ritter also said there is a political goal behind all this: to make Panama yield because it dared challenge Washington's orders. The idea is to cover with mud the man they once praised.

Meanwhile, Juan Sosa, Panamanian ambassador to the United States, also spoke up against the campaign some U.S. groups have unleashed against Panama. Ambassador Sosa rejected Kalish's statements, saying one cannot believe the statements made by a drug trafficker trying to reduce his own sentence.

Delvalle Urges Support for Democratic Path

PA311634 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] During the ceremony to swear in the new board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Panama, President Eric Arturo Delvalle expressed his absolute conviction and decision to preserve, perfect, and consolidate our country's democratic regime. President Delvalle said the Executive Branch will continue taking all necessary measures to guarantee the security of individuals, their families, and the belongings of all the country's residents, abiding by existing laws. President Delvalle added that he has never thought of changing and will never change our monetary system, in accordance with the Constitution.

The Panamanian monetary system has proven, far beyond any theory, to be the most adequate for and beneficial to our economy, Delvalle said. He went on to say Panama has always respected private property and will continue that tradition, within the law.

[Begin Delvalle recording] In order for all these projects, all these programs, all these efforts to come about, to develop, and to become firm, as well as to consolidate the country's future, we have to rescue the country from the political crisis it is in, and this can only be accomplished with the honest participation by all.

Democracy has a method of renewing itself. That is the electoral process that takes place periodically, and the next one should take place in May 1989.

We must all strengthen this process, believe in it, and help guarantee its results and impartiality so that it reflects, beyond a doubt, the people's will.

If the democratic path, with all its imperfections, that has been built up to now is destroyed—even though that path has been suspended for 16 years under the pretext of searching for a better path—we will never attain that wished-for and dreamed-of perfect democracy about which we hear so much.

Subversion and violence only generate more subversion and violence. The progress and prosperity that we achieve in Panama will undoubtedly be the best tool for creating a free and democratic society and country and for avoiding the specter of social violence and chaos that inevitably—in Latin America or any part of the world—ends in tyranny and terror.

I share with you the profound belief in democratic ideals and fully identify with a world in which man's values are recognized and his creative work potential earn him respect and a place of high esteem, a world where he can contribute to society's progress.

Let us remain firmly united in attaining these common goals, and let us work harder to ensure that these values endure and these ideals triumph, so we can make Panama a model of stability, of democracy, of freedom, and of peace, for this area and the world. Thank you. [applause] [end recording].

Government Near 'Financial Collapse'

PA301330 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Jan 88 p 1-A

[Article by Flor Quintero]

[Text] Reliable sources linked to the government confirmed yesterday to LA PRENSA that Eric Arturo Delvalle's government is on the verge of a "financial collapse" and that more than 17,000 public workers will be dismissed.

According to our sources, the national economy is at its lowest level, which could cause serious difficulties for the country.

This would seem to be confirmed by circular No 1-DISIST—which we publish below—sent by Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez to all government offices, advising that his office will make the necessary cuts to the 1987 budget outlays, in accordance with the real income obtained in 1988.

Government sources admitted that Planning and Economic Policy Minister Ricaurte Vasquez' statements to foreign correspondents published by THE MIAMI HERALD and reprinted by LA PRENSA yesterday are "correct" [afirmativa].

According to our source, 80 National Casino workers have already been dismissed, as have been a similar number of workers in other government offices.

The source disclosed that a decree signed by President Delvalle at the end of 1987 has begun to circulate through several government offices that clearly specifies that more than 15,000 public workers are to be dismissed during the next few months.

Minister Vasquez says that the government will "not have the funds to pay the wages of 150,000 public workers."

The comptroller's circular, addressed to state ministers, directors and general managers of decentralized offices, legislative branch, and judicial branch dependencies, reads as follows:

Subject: 1988 Budget Implementation.

As you already know, the FY1988 draft budget presented by the Executive Branch for consideration by the Legislative Branch was unanimously rejected during the Legislative Assembly budget commission's first debate on the issue. Article 270 of the country's Constitution is very clear in these cases.

Article 270: If the Legislative Assembly rejects the country's general draft budget, the previous budget is automatically deemed extended until the new budget is approved. Also, the public debt service expenditures in the rejected budget draft are automatically approved, fulfilling the government's remaining contractural obligations and the financing of previously legally authorized public investments."

The Planning and Economic Policy Ministry has outlined the actions to be taken until the new budget is approved that will allow public institutions to use the minimum budget appropriations for expenditures based primarily on the 1987 budget and the actual revenues obtained in 1988.

I repeat: If the budgeted income is not enough, the General Comptroller's Office will make the necessary adjustments within the previously authorized expenditure assignments.

Regarding expenditures and projects under the respective public institution investments, financed by external resources and loans to be contracted: They will only be assigned and carried out once the funds are actually received.

The 31 December 1987 job structure will remain in effect; therefore, until a new structure is available, the only personnel actions to be processed are to deal with vacations (leaving and returning), leave (leaving and returning), dismissals, and wage differences (because of leave) that affect FY1988. No additional payments will be made corresponding to FY1987. The General Comptroller's Office shall abstain from effecting any changes that result in salary increases.

Contractural obligations, office rentals, equipment leasing, and other such actions shall be postponed for 3 months and shall comply with current laws and procedures that regulate this.

In view of the above, the cooperation of higher-level public administrators is requested, so they may instruct those officers responsible for carrying out budgetary and financial matters in their institutions; the General Comptroller's Office will demand compliance with these rules, following the powers conferred upon this office by the Constitution and the law.

President Denies Dismissals

PA301333 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Jan 88 pp 11, 14

[28 January communique issued by the Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic of Panama in Panama City]

[Text] First, His Excellency President Eric Arturo Delvalle publicly said that despite the government's financial situation, the government will adopt austerity and institutional reorganization measures to save money rather than resort to the massive dismissal of public employees.

Second, the statements published by the newspaper LA PRENSA in its 28 January issue are absolutely false. LA PRENSA published a five-column article on its front page titled: "The National Economy Is at Its Lowest Level." The article, which states there is a decree ordering the dismissal of over 15,000 public employees, says: "The source revealed that an executive decree signed by President Delvalle at the end of 1987 is circulating in various government offices. The decree clearly states that in the next few months, over 15,000 public employees will be dismissed."

Third, in addition to being a false report, it also discredits and underestimates the Executive Branch's policy toward public employees. Therefore, His Excellency President Eric Arturo Delvalle will file a formal complaint at the Attorney General's office to start legal procedures for crimes committed against the people's honor.

Panama, 28 January 1988.

Explanation Demanded

PA301900 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Jan 88 p 26-A

[Article by Lisette Carrasco]

[Excerpts] The Government and Justice Ministry yesterday asked LA PRENSA reporter Flor Quintero to present evidence supporting a 28 January article she wrote—entitled "National Economy Is at Lowest Level"—within 3 days in keeping with Law 11 of 10 February 1978. [passage omitted]

A note, handed to LA PRENSA's front desk at 1530 yesterday, signed by Media Director Osvaldo Gudino Aguilar states: An article you wrote entitled "Economy Is at Lowest Level," appearing in the edition corresponding to today, 28 January 1988, you, Flor Quintero, mention the existence of: "...an executive degree signed by President Eric Arturo Delvalle in late 1987 that clearly specifies that more than 15,000 public employees must be fired over the next few months."

The note states: "We will give you 3 days, beginning on the date of this note, to present evidence supporting your report that will allow us to determine responsibilities."

The note to reporter Quintero is based on Law 11 of 10 February 1987, better known as the "Gag Law"; and on Articles 15, 17, and 19.

Quintero becomes the first journalist to be asked by the Government and Justice Ministry to present evidence on the veracity of a report since the reopening of seven news media that were closed by the national government in late July. [passage omitted]

Labor Leader on Dismissals

PA011647 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Jan 88 P 16-A

[Article by Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] Labor Leader Rolando Ordonez yesterday warned that the dismissal of 20,000 employees is "almost the equivalent of a guerrilla war in the mountains of this country."

Ordonez' statements were issued following the information revealed by Planning and Economic Policy Minister Ricaurte Vasquez, who told a MIAMI HERALD journalist that "the government is facing a financial collapse and will have to fire 20,000 public employees in a few months."

Ordonez said that the dismissal of 20,000 public employees would be the start of another El Salvador in Central America, clearly referring to the fratricidal struggle taking place in that country.

Asked if General Manuel Antonio Noriega's dismissal as Defense Forces commander might be the solution to the financial and political crisis which prevails in our country, Ordonez answered: "The IMF will still try to adjust and impose economic measures in our country whether Noriega stays or not," and added that the credit organization wants to "continue blackmailing Panama."

Ordonez, who is a member of the National Council of Organized Workers (CONATO), emphatically stated that Panamanian workers cannot accept the dismissal of 20,000 employees, as the national government intends to do. "We are labor leaders and we cannot accept, or even consider, a mass dismissal as the solution to our crisis," he added.

Ordonez believes that there are other types of measures— political and financial—that might be used by the national government to solve the financial crisis afflicting Panama since last June, when a series of large-scale protests began against Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Furthermore, he said that mass dismissals would only worsen the financial and political crisis which prevails in Panama.

Ordonez asserted that Minister Vasquez' statements do not surprise him. He said: "This type of statement is always issued whenever the foreign debt is being negotiated."

"We think that the national government should not put up with any pressures or yield to the IMF," he stated.

Ordonez said: The government should tighten its belt and reject the pressures exerted by international credit organizations."

Cuban Friendship Institutes Sign Pact

PA271805 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Jan 88 p 10

[Article by Ruben Dario Diaz C.]

[Text] The Panama-Cuba Friendship Institute [IAPC] and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples [ICAP] have signed an agreement to establish and reinforce friendship ties between the two brother nations through cultural, scientific, political, traditional, and historical relations.

IAPC was established in 1980 and is headed by Moises Torrijos Herrera. Its members maintain diverse ideological and political views and seek friendship and brotherhood ties between Cuba and Panama.

On 14 November 1987, Eugenio Meneses and Moravia Ochoa represented IAPC in Cuba and signed an agreement with ICAP establishing numerous cultural guidelines for both institutions.

Eugenio Meneses' executive president of IAPC's Colon Province chapter, said the two groups seek to reinforce mutual ties. In addition, these groups established programs to sponsor exhibitions, lectures, conferences, film showings, and friendship meetings; host visiting cultural groups; and publish articles from the press, radio, and television.

According to Meneses, the ICAP agreed to honor the following Panamanian historic events in Cuba: The U.S. troops' massacre of Panamanian students on 9 January; the death of General Omar Torrijos Herrera on 31 July; the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties on 7 September; and Panamanian independence from Colombia on 3 November.

Panama has agreed to honor the anniversary of the Cuban revolution's triumph and Liberation Day on 1 January. Cuban national hero Jose Marti's birthday on 28 January; the Bay of Pigs invasion, which was America's first imperialist defeat, on 19 April; the anniversary of the Moncada Barracks assault on 26 July; the anniversary of Ernesto 'Che" Guevara's death in combat on 8 October; Cuban Culture Day on 20 October; and the anniversary of the Cuban revolutionary forces' landing on 2 December.

Eugenio Meneses stressed that a cultural exchange center will be established at ICAP to include periodic publications on books, albums, and other informative materials. The most important feature of the agreement involves joint statements to be made if there are slanderous attacks against either Cuba or Panama. The agreement also stressed the achievements of the Cuban and Panamanian peoples, especially those that the international news media may distort.

Panamanian writer Moravia Ochoa, IAPC secretary general and representative of the Front to Rescue Culture [Frente de Rescate de la Cultura], said that a number of meetings have already begun this month in compliance with the agreement; IAPC members and some of its leaders have already met so a series of important events can begin in late January and early February. The anniversary of the Cuban revolution's triumph will be celebrated in Panama and will include a visit to the Jose Marti monument in Porras Square, located in front of the Cuban Embassy. Another event, to be held in Colon, will be announced at an opportune time. This ceremony, exclusively for Colon residents, will be organized by IAPC's Colon Province chapter.

Argentina

Alfonsin Pays Official Visit to Spain

For reportage on President Raul Alfonsin's official 3-day visit to Spain, including meetings with Prime Minister Gonzalez and Foreign Minister Fernandez Ordonez, see the Spain section of the 1 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Peace Council Issues Declaration on Falklands

PY011232 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1526 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jan (NA)—The Argentine Council of Peace has defined the UK's establishment of an economic exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands as "a true theft." The exclusion zone was established on 1 February 1987.

The council asserts that "this is an illegal measure depriving us of all kinds of riches within a vast zone around the islands. The wealth not only includes fishing resources, but also oil and mineral nodules, among others riches."

The council's declaration states that "NATO's military presence in the Malvinas comprises a fortress including a naval fleet, several aircraft squadrons, and a base with a strategic airport, all of them equipped with nuclear weapons."

The declaration adds that "a new sophisticated communications system has been installed recently to connect the islands with the war network of NATO and the United States."

The council proposes "to reverse the process of militarization of the islands by mobilizing public opinion in the national and international arena and by more forcefully participating in international forums."

The declaration stresses that "the so-called fishing conservation and administration zone around the illegally seized Malvinas" constitutes "a colonialist remnant around our islands."

The declaration concludes by saying that "this constitutes a true theft, adding unacceptable economic aggression to the 1982 military aggression."

Courts Charge Rico, Others With 'Mutiny'

PY011410 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 30 Jan 88 p 4

[Excerpt] After a long questioning session with former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, the military judges have lifted his incommunicado status, and charged him with mutiny. The military courts also ordered that 55 Army commanders and officers and 6 noncommissioned officers who engaged in the revolt that climaxed with the Monte Caseros events be placed under reduced preventive detention or rigorous preventive detention.

In an official communique released by the Army, Aldo Rico is referred to as lieutenant colonel, not former lieutenant colonel, the title military sources had used recently.

The decision to lift the incommunicado status of the man who headed the Monte Caseros incidents means that Rico may be visited by close relatives, as established by the military prison system.

When the courts end the incommunicado status of the other commanders involved in the revolt, they will also be authorized visits by close relatives.

As previously announced, on 29 January the Army General Staff released a communique on the trial of those involved in the military revolt. The communique states:

"The military judges have ordered that the following people be placed under rigorous preventive detention: Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, charged with mutiny; Lieutenant Colonel Angel Daniel Leon, charged with mutiny; Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Carlos Venturino, charged with insubordination; Lieutenant Colonel Hector Claudio Alvarez de Igarzabal, charged with mutiny; and Major Jorge D'Amico, charged with mutiny.

"Fifty-five other commanders and officers have been placed under rigorous or reduced preventive detention, depending on whether their crimes were classified as 'mutiny,' 'insubordination,' or 'disobedience.'

"Forty-three noncommissioned officers were released, without precluding the continuation of trial proceedings and six noncommissioned officers have been placed under preventive detention." [passage omitted]

Fuel Prices, Transport Fares Increased

PY312239 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Bus, air and train fares were yesterday raised by an average of 10, 11 and 12 percent, respectively, hard upon Friday night's 7.5 percent increase of petrol prices. The new fares will come into force on the first day of the month tomorrow.

The minimum bus fare will thus be 55 cents, according to the Public Works and Services Ministry, 80 cents for distances between six and 12 kilometres, one austral for 12-18 kilometres, 1.25 australs for 18-27 kilometres, 1.45 australs for 27-36 kilometres and 1.70 australs for more than 36 kilometres.

Schoolchildren will pay 25 cents.

Gas, electricity, telephone, postal and water rates are expected to go up shortly by between seven and eight percent.

Buses Burned; Trade Union Involvement Hinted

PY291645 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Jan 88 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Cordoba—Five buses were intentionally burned early this morning by still unidentified individuals in different areas of this city. In every case the buses were parked on the street in front of the drivers' homes as they were to begin their rounds at 6 a.m. The assailants placed three incendiary devices in the five vehicles, damaging them partially. Antonio Torres, president of the 12 de Octubre bus company, which owns two of the damaged buses, said ironically that it was "a strong coincidence" that the attacks come at a time when trade unionists are pressing for higher wages.

Bolivia

Minister Views Foreign Policy as Successful

PY291409 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] In a lengthy document on Bolivian foreign policy, Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has stated that, based on constitutional guidelines, the government of President Victor Paz Estenssoro has successfully conducted Bolivian foreign policy.

The foreign minister said that the president has held continuous contacts, through lengthy letters, with the presidents of the United States, the PRC, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, and Brazil, and with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Bedregal said that subjects of world interest related to international peace and tranquillity, especially regarding Bolivia, were discussed in these contacts.

The foreign minister added that Bolivia has been successful in conducting its foreign policy, based on the manner in which the government faced the Bolivian maritime demand, the struggle against drug trafficking, and the manner in which the national economy has been developed.

He said that President Paz Estenssoro has maintained continuous contacts with the presidents of Latin American countries, including Mexico. He said that the Bolivian president talked with his Mexican counterpart, Miguel de la Madrid, on aspects related to integration and harmony as discussed by eight Latin American presidents.

Bedregal Gutierrez included in his document several points brought up by four former foreign ministers, explaining that national foreign policy programs are based on the professional work of people who are playing their role within the government, and especially at the Foreign Ministry.

Finance Minister on Argentine Gas Payments

PY290245 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1442 GMT 28 Jan 88

[Text] La Paz, 28 Jan (AFP)—Finance Minister Juan Cariaga said here today that Argentina will be unable to pay Bolivia for its purchases of natural gas until it reaches a new agreement with the IMF and receives foreign loans.

Cariaga told journalists that Argentina will continue to make small token payments as a show of good will.

During 1987 Argentina purchased 240 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, paid $130 million, and left an outstanding debt of $90 million.

During the meeting it was recalled that the Bolivian sale of gas to Argentina represents more than 60 percent of Bolivian exports.

Gold Reserves To Be Sold To Reactivate Economy

PY291415 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The Central Bank has signed an agreement with eight Bolivian private banks thus far, enabling them to grant credits for economic reactivation.

The National Emergency Fund (FERE) will have $500 million available for this purpose this year. The funds will be channeled through the private banks. The Central Bank has signed agreements with the following banks: Boliviano Americano, Cochabamba, Hipotecario, Big-Beni, La Paz, Mercantil, and Santa Cruz [seven banks as published].

The government intends to continue granting credits for economic reactivation as of February. This process is currently paralyzed due to the Argentine failure to pay for its natural gas purchases.

According to the Central Bank, part of the funds necessary for the economic reactivation will be obtained through the guarantee offered by the gold reserves or by the sale of the gold reserves.

The Central Bank has already contracted with the Goldman Sachs firm for its advise during the international negotiations that must be carried out for this purpose.

With the guarantee provided by the gold (refined and smelt), Bolivia will be able to obtain credit for more than $400 million from foreign banks or governments.

Most likely 26 tons of gold will be taken abroad to be refined and smelt by the end of February or the beginning of March.

The Goldman Sachs firm will help select the companies that will refine the gold and sell it.

Briefs

Industrial Growth Index

Industry, Commerce, and Tourism Minister Fernando Moscoso has reported an 8.07-percent industrial growth rate in the first half of 1987 and a 4- to 5-percent industrial growth rate in the second half of 1987. [Summary] *[La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Dec 87 p 1 PY]*

Brazil

$350 Million in Interest Paid to Banks

PA012246 Paris AFP in Spanish 2155 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Brasilia, 1 Feb (AFP)—Brazil officially reported today that it has paid $350 million in interest on its foreign debt to private banks and a "rapprochement process" with the IMF will begin by mid-February.

In Brasilia,the Brazilian finance minister said: Because the $350 million is about one-third of the interest due in January, we expect to learn more about the exact amount the banks will refinance. [sentence as received]

Milliet on Debt Agreement

PY012333 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] In New York, Central Bank President Fernando Milliet explained that Brazil has paid interest on its foreign debt within the limits of its possibilities.

[Begin Milliet recording] Within those possibilities, we prefer a policy of advancing rapidly in the negotiations for a medium-term agreement over a policy of provisional agreement. A provisional agreement takes a lot of time and does not lead to the necessary advancements. Therefore, our idea is to conclude as soon as possible a medium-term agreement. [end recording]

Nobrega Threatens To Resign Twice in 1 Week

PY011534 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1852 GMT 30 Jan 88

[By Jose Antonio Maillo]

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 30 Jan (EFE)—Having been in his post only 3 weeks, Brazilian Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega this week threatened twice to resign if pressure continues for him to authorize an increase in the nation's budget.

"If you continue to apply pressure, I am leaving," the minister said angrily, when a group of congressmen from the northeast, the country's poorest region, invaded his office seeking a subsidized credit for the agricultural sector.

A similar aggressive incident occurred in the town of Montes Claros, Minas Gerais State, when the minister was confronted in the airport by farmers demanding the same line of credit.

The minister has also received a note from the National Industries Conference requesting a postponement of the deadline for refinancing the debts of small and medium-sized enterprises.

"One of the government's functions is to accept pressure, but I do not like the way it is being applied." This was said by Minister Nobrega when he was confirmed in his post by President Jose Sarney on 5 January. The minister has been constantly explaining that complying rigorously with the nation's budget is the only way to combat inflation and reduce the public deficit. "The nation cannot spend money without congressional authorization," he has stated, and it is precisely from Congress that the minister has received the heaviest pressure.

According to one of the minister's advisers, approximately 20 congressmen interrupted a luncheon the minister held on 28 January for IMF representatives to hand Nobrega a document.

The document states that interest rates plus monetary correction charges on agricultural credits for the northeast will be authorized "before Brazil reaches an agreement with the IMF."

A deputy shouted: "You are from the northeast." Nobrega answered: "I am aware of the northeast's problems, but before being a northeasterner, I am the country's finance minister."

The way the improvised dialogue developed irritated the minister and for the second time during the week he threatened to resign. [passage omitted]

Sarney Addresses Cabinet on Economic Issues

PY011520 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1137 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Speech by President Jose Sarney to open a cabinet meeting in Brasilia—live]

[Text] The session in open. Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Chamber of Deputies and of the national Constituent Assembly; Minister Rafael Maia, president of the Federal Supreme Court; Senator Umberto Lucena, president of the Senate; Deputies Jose Lorenco and Carlos Sant'Anna; Senator Saldanha Derzi, Ministers:

I summoned you and the presidents of the legislative and judicial branches today because the issue we will discuss pertains not only to the executive branch but the whole country. It involves all of those who participate in public administration.

Being aware that your participation is necessary, I have invited you here and thank you for your presence. You must know the principles of our administration guidelines.

For the first time in Brazil, we are implementing a new budget system approved by the national Congress, implemented by law, and controlled by the judicial branch.

The new budget system no longer allows the executive branch to use new expenses if not foreseen and allotted with their specified revenue source. Any modification to the budget must be approved by the national Congress. This is a great political achievement that implies great responsibility.

The planning and finance ministers will explain the details of the 1988 national budget. They will also discuss the difficulties we will face in implementing it without modifications. We will not be able to achieve our objective without your help and understanding.

The old budget system did not fully meet the needs of public expenses. Also, the decentralization program—a beneficial measure which is one of the achievements of the democratic opening—allowed excessive expenditures which, although perhaps fair, could not be covered by the National Treasury.

Our expenses on personnel increased disproportionally without presidential authorization or control from the public expenses control office.

The state revenue also reached its lowest level, aggravating our situation. With a patient, brave, and determined will, the government has prepared this unified budget, which is understandable and offers a full view of all administrative events.

In view of these numbers, we cannot deny that the potential deficit is a threat to economic stability and our efforts to fight inflation, and represents an injustice for the tax payers.

Unfortunately, some fiscal policies of the past did not allow us to implement the effective control that would have prevented distortions and mistakes.

Today, the government has more experience and a better administrative team to start a new decisive phase. Last week we adopted some legal measures to allow the government to control its expenses.

I think we reached a high point in our administration. In the past 3 years I have been absolutely tolerant and have tried to solve conflicts among irreconcilable sectors, but have not found a corresponding will for harmony.

Some sectors' lack of loyalty to the government policy prevented us from achieving our objectives in many cases. This is a healthy self-criticism which must be admitted by the government and the president.

Therefore, there is no more time to waste. So I take this opportunity to request the ministers to faithfully follow the guidelines we set. Those subordinates who do not follow this recommendation must be removed from their posts because they are against the government and its guidelines.

Our ethical standards must become a patrimony of all. We must redouble our surveillance to dishearten and prevent any condemnable practice in public administration. Corruption, that harmful weed which has ravaged Brazilian public service, must be fought permanently, and must be fought now.

No political interest must weaken our determination. Those who have worked with me during my public career know of my obsession and intransigence with regard to this subject.

Therefore our task will consist of trying to reduce the public deficit and curb inflation, without forgetting that economic growth is our most important goal.

This is why we must strictly follow the guidelines we will set for the executive branch and which, in a general manner, are part of the national budget approved by Congress. I hope that the explanations of the planning and finance ministers help the chiefs of the executive and judicial branches understand the problems of the Brazilian nation and implement the budget.

Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, Minister Rafael Maia, Senator Umberto Lucena, and other leaders, I am deeply thankful for your presence—which I consider a demonstration of unity, public spirit, and responsibility—at this meeting which you honor with your prestige.

Ministers, I express my confidence in your loyalty, in your work, and public spirit. Thank you.

Ministers Address Cabinet

PY011753 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpts] President Jose Sarney held a cabinet meeting this morning with 23 ministers. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu spoke after the president. He enumerated the causes of the country's financial crisis and explained the measures adopted to

counteract it. Among these measures De Abreu mentioned the implementation of a unified national budget, the creation of a National Treasury Secretariat, and the abolition of the Banco do Brasil's treasury account [conta movimento].

The planning minister concluded his speech with an evaluation of the work currently under way.

[Begin De Abreu recording] The measures I have just mentioned constitute the most important achievement in the realm of Brazil's public finances in the past 25 years. These measures were fully implemented during your administration, Mr President.

The Planning Secretariat is ready to implement the unified budget in keeping with the goals of the economic policy you have defined, Mr President. [end recording]

Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega spoke after the planning minister and said the purpose of today's meeting is not to make administrative decisions, but to obtain the understanding of the ministers regarding the current economic situation.

Minister Nobrega reiterated that he will not announce a new economic plan and spoke about the urgent need to reduce the public deficit.

[Begin Nobrega recording] We must clearly and objectively demonstrate our determination to definitively reverse the negative expectations of the people regarding the public deficit. Such expectations are the greatest, but not the only, cause of inflationary pressures.

Public deficit means the government is spending more than it collects. To pay for this difference, the government either issues more money or borrows from society.

The public deficit is closely related to waste. Society feels betrayed. Taxpayers are annoyed when they think revenues collected through taxes are poorly administered.

During your administration, Mr President, the greatest institutional transformation in the field of the public budget has taken place. The unified budget now contains all revenues and expenses of the Federal Goverment. [end recording]

Minister Mailson da Nobrega also said he needs the help of the people and the businessmen, adding that the government must be the first to set an example. He made the following appeal to the ministers:

[Begin Nobrega recording] There can be no expenditures that exceed budget restrictions. No matter how legitimate pressures may be, the finance minister has lost the authority to approve expenditures without congressional authorization.

The National Monetary Council, whose functions were distorted over time, definitively ceased its role of spending more than the National Congress.

A minister may no longer create subsidized credit lines or help companies in trouble through a ministerial resolution or a telephone call. Now, everything will depend on the national budget. [end recording]

Chile

Junta Debating Possibility of Free Elections

PY011438 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1732 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Santiago, 31 Jan (EFE)—Former Deputy Juan King, a leader of the National Party, has said the Chilean military regime is currently having an internal debate on the possibility of "a complete turn-around that would include turning the upcoming referendum into open elections."

King, a leader of the National Party (rightist, independent, and democratic, according to its own definition), specified there are sectors within the military government that believe that "the opposition would lose all its banners" if direct and open elections are held.

The former deputy adds that his sector supports this position because "in addition, the official candidate would be presented as an authentic democrat, thus changing his image in and outside the country."

According to the Constitution that General Augusto Pinochet signed in 1981, the Armed Forces will select a presidential candidate for the 1989-97 term and the people will decide on this candidate during a plebiscite to be held in 1988. If a majority of Chileans vote no in the plebiscite, direct elections will be held in 1990.

The junta of the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces (which includes Gen Pinochet) and the director of the Carabineros must unanimously select the candidate that will stand in the 1988 plebiscite 90 days before the current government term concludes (11 March 1989).

A constitutional reform, which has to be approved in a plebiscite, proposed by the government will be necessary to transform the scheduled referendum into open elections, and the opposition will have to vote yes [words indistinct].

Moreover, this proposal does not include the possibility of a run-off election if none of the candidates obtains an absolute majority, and it bases the official aspirations on the fact that the opposition will be divided, presenting two or three candidates.

On the other hand, Juan Hamilton, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party, supported an agenda that would include the replacement of the plebiscite with free elections and a Congress that would have the power to reform the 1981 Constitution.

Hamilton, a senator until 1973, when a military coup overthrew President Salvador Allende and put Gen Augusto Pinochet in power, today stated that an understanding with the Armed Forces before the upcoming referendum would be very beneficial in terms of achieving a peaceful transition to democracy.

According to Hamilton, the commanders in chief of the Navy and Air Force and the director of the Carabineros have demonstrated their desire to reach an understanding, but this hope has not flourished due to Gen Pinochet's lack of support.

Opposition Parties Submit Government Program

PY280159 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1706 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 27 Jan (EFE)—Six Chilean opposition parties today submitted a "basic program of government" that constitutes "a democratic alternative to be implemented during a 4-year transition period that would follow the authoritarian regime."

The document was signed by representatives of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], Humanist Party, National Democraty Party, Liberal Party, Social Democratic Party, and Popular Socialist Union. The Radical Democratic Party also supported the document.

The signatories stated that "in the face of the great and serious socioeconomic problems Chile will have to deal with during the transition period, we agree to support this program and the government of the first democratic period."

The signatories of the document advocate "reconciliation, which is the great national task"; a new fatherland for all; and the restoration of democracy.

In its chapter on the "political-institutional program," the document addresses the following topics: "the recovery of the people's sovereignty; full respect for human rights, the state of law, and an independent judicial branch (the military court should hear only military cases); individual and state security; the political parties; and the decentralization of power."

The document also includes the following issues on human rights: strict respect for the right to "education, academic freedom, freedom of opinion and information, freedom to petition, freedom and protection for labor, the right to social security, and freedom of participation."

The document adds that "rights and obligations must be founded on equal access to opportunities and benefits in order to build a firm democracy."

Regarding the right to private property, the program recognizes this right, stating that "the beneficiaries of this right must accept their social duty." The program also proposes "a continuous process of distribution of property so that an ever-increasing number of Chileans can benefit from this right."

The economic program also mentions "the commitment to the country's growth and the social justice pact."

Regarding the social justice pact, the signatories point out that "social justice is not only a moral imperative but an essential condition to provide stability to any future political regime."

The document says the social justice pact seeks to ensure that "the sacrifices the development process imposes will be equitably distributed so those who have more can give more, and those who have less can benefit more."

The parties that signed this program also propose that "social rights be included in the Constitution as a basic commitment."

Official Criticizes Platform

PY020236 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Report from Government House by Eliana Henriquez]

[Text] Orlando Poblete, minister secretary general of government, in commenting on the government program proposed by the opposition, said it is unclear, imprecise, and full of moderation and technicalities, but it does not manage to conceal its tactical intentions.

Poblete stated that through this proposal the PDC and its allies intend to alter the institutional order provided for by the 1980 Constitution.

The minister said the opposition seeks to establish a government that will represent the reinstatement of the scheme that existed before 1973, and the proposal for a 4-year government reveals the opposition parties only want to alter the Constitution and create the necessary conditions to implement their own strategies.

Poblete, in referring to those responsible for the government proposal, said the PDC stance has been one of crude and immoral pragmatism designed to reach agreements for joint actions or campaigns with the materialist, totalitarian left.

Regarding the Humanist Party, Poblete said its proposals are in keeping with such stances as those of Silo [Argentine ideologist who founded the La Comunidad movement that led to the creation of the Humanist

Party] and La Comunidad, which are harmful or contradictory to Chilean values; that they are confusing; and that they have a large dose of atheist materialism.

Regarding the [words indistinct] participation of sectors that have supported the Popular Unity. The proposal belongs to the PDC, and the other groups signed it only to suggest the idea of a broader agreement.

Regarding the socioeconomic proposals, Poblete said they should be rejected outright, and they do not contribute any sound proposal that could serve as the cornerstone for a true development program.

As for private rights over the means of production, the minister said the proposal ties them to subjective conditions that represent a threat to these rights, and the lack of a real acknowledgement and protection of such rights represents a serious oversight.

He ended by stating the lack of clarity and precision of most of the opposition's socioeconomic proposals makes it a mere statement of generalizations.

Campaign To Frighten Opposition Reported

PY290240 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Jan 88

(Excerpt] The board of directors of the Party for Democracy, which is headed by party President Ricardo Lagos, has charged a campaign has been unleashed to frighten those who are promoting a vote of no to the plebiscite. As an example, Lagos mentioned the arrest of Genaro Arriagada and the decision to sentence National Workers Command leaders Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez to 541 days in prison. In this regard, Lagos recalled the shocking language Judge Arnoldo Dreyse used to refer to the leaders.

[Begin Lagos recording] To say that those labor leaders are connected with terrorism and drug trafficking—as Judge Dreyse wrote in a resolution issued yesterday—and that the stoppage called for 7 October is the type of strike described by the judge, is an unprecedented action from the viewpoint of court proceedings.

Furthermore, barely 48 hours after the National Command for Free Elections announced the beginning of a campaign to vote no to the plebiscite, the military judge indicted Genaro Arriagada, who is the secretary of the campaign, and HOY director Abraham Santibanez and Alejandro Guille. Such actions are both aimed at the same objective. [end recording]

Lagos also mentioned the threats received by two of the founders of the party, actress (Carla Cristi) and Valparaiso party representative Laura Soto. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Officials Outline Planned National Assembly

PA012355 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Colombia's State Council met with various economic groups today to outline the creation of a national assembly for national reconstruction. The assembly would consist of associations, the church, labor unions, political sectors, the media, and other groups. The assembly would need the approval of a national plebiscite to function. If approved, the assembly would have more powers than the president, because in legislative matters, it would not be subordinate to the Supreme Court.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Do you believe the country is no longer controlled by its leaders?

[Fabio Echeverri Correa, president of the National Association of Industrialists] Yes, I believe the country is in its final throes. I believe it goes beyond Dr Lleras Restrepo's statement that it has come unbound. We have been tearing up the pages that have come unbound.

[Reporter] What has caused this?

[Echeverri] Disunity; the drug trafficking; the guerrilla movement; violence of all kinds; everyone doing what one pleases; disrespecting the law; the inability of the country's institutions to function; great disorder; great madness among the people, with everyone giving opinions and talking about everything; and in general everyone doing whatever one pleases. There is a lack of order and discipline. [end recording]

Guerrillas Launch Attacks; Security Reinforced

ELN Blows Up Oil Pipeline

PA011854 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1814 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 29 Jan (DPA)—Despite reinforced patrols and new military operations, a guerrilla group has carried out another terrorist attack against the main Colombian oil pipeline in the eastern part of the country.

According to a report by the state-owned Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol), a group from the "Domingo Lain Saenz" front of the pro-Castro National Liberation Army (ELN) blew up for the eighth time the pipeline between Cano Limon-Covenas. This latest attack occurred at the 85-km marker, in Saravena municipality on the Venezuelan border. The bomb, which destroyed several meters of the pipeline, exploded in a desolate area where the pipeline travels underground.

The Army said today that security measures have been reinforced with the support of helicopter gunships and counterinsurgency forces. The Army's 5th Brigade guards the 220-km pipeline from Cano Limon to Toledo, Santander Department. According to Ecopetrol, no oil was spilled in the new attack, the eighth on this oil pipeline in 1988.

24 Die in Clashes

PA010350 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Today's report is very sad because it is another day of this terrible violence that is ravaging our country: Clashes and ambushes have left 25 [as heard] soldiers and rebels dead. The Armed Forces killed six FARC and seven EPL [Popular Liberation Army] rebels in Chigorodo, Antioquia, located near the Cordoba-Antioquia border. In addition, three rebels and three military men were killed in Betulia, Antioquia. A soldier was killed in Chaquira, northern Santander; three soldiers and one policeman were killed in Aguachica, Cesar. The latter were killed in an ambush by Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Board members.

Patriotic Unity Official Dies

PA300428 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Violence continues to shake Norte de Santander Department. The Patriotic Unity director in the department, his wife, and a Conservative Party leader were murdered there in the last few hours. The triple murder took place in Convencion municipality, Ocana jurisdiction, 5 hours from the capital of Norte de Santander Department. [passage omitted]

Arsenal Discovered

PA300053 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The Antioquia police yesterday discovered the most extensive arsenal containing advanced weapons ever found in Colombia. The arsenal was found at the La Fresera farm where Andres Pastrana Arango, Social Conservative Party candidate for Bogota mayor, was held for 8 days.

The police discovered a 1.5-meter-wide by 3-meter-long room, concealed by a brick and concrete wall, between the kitchen and a bedroom on the first floor. The following were found in the room: 26 caps and 17 green bandanas stolen from the police; 17 shirts and 18 olive-drab trousers; an Army camouflage trouser; uniforms and tools stolen from the Medellin traffic department and other municipal offices; four bulletproof vests; four handcuffs; a chain with shackles; logistical supplies; 64 AR-15 rifle clips; Uzi submachinegun clips; more than 170 boxes with rifle ammunition of various calibers; silencers; submachinegun flash suppressors; 32 AR-15 rifles, some of which were equipped with Austrian-made AUG telescopic sights; 5 motorcycle license plates; 6 car license plates; government ID cards and badges; and a synthetic-material box containing 12,000 rounds of ammunition of various calibers.

The weapons found, because of their nature and sophistication, would help any criminal organization commit crimes, Colonel Francisco Forero Rivera, Antioquia police commander, said.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Colonel, have you determined where these weapons came from?

[Forero Rivera] Well, as far as I know they were all smuggled in.

[Reporter] What will the police do with all this?

[Forero Rivera] All of these weapons and materials have been turned over to the judge carrying out the investigation. [end recording]

Londono Visits Bulgaria; Meets With Officials

For Bulgarian-source reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes to Bulgaria, including his meeting with Todor Zhivkov, president of the State Council of Bulgaria, and talks with Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, see the Bulgaria division of the 26 January East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Paraguay

Abrams' 'Offensive Statements' Criticized

PY012338 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 1 Feb 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Again the Unacceptable Confusion"]

[Text] Despite the fact that the report apparently originated with a biased source, an evening paper has dedicated considerable space and large headlines to a meeting between "Tovarich" Domingo Laino, who advocates abstention in the upcoming elections, and the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, the well-known and famous Elliott Abrams, who makes offensive statements and rhetorical provocations.

The report does not mention the specific issue addressed by the Yankee official and the demagogue who heads the obstructionist gang that promotes the antidemocratic abstention of the "Authentic Radical" faction. Yet this is not necessary, because all of us know what the "progressive liberal" thinks and says; all of us know what can be expected from the strongly Quakerish and Puritanical mind of the assistant secretary, who cannot tell the difference between coughing, sneezing, and other types of noise. The assistant secretary ignores the difference

between a normal constitutional state—with representative democracy and broad possibilities for the participation of legally established parties—and other de facto situations which, even though based on an institutional order, are recognized as a transition between a situation that has ended and a situation that is being developed. His shortsightedness would not allow him to distinguish a state of law—with its own institutions in a Latin American nation—from other types of de facto situations. Clumsy as other stereotyped U.S. politicians in his views with regard to perceiving and judging the political problems "south of the Rio Grande," the assistant secretary could not interpret the causes of such situations.

Except for what the "Tovarich" may have told him about it, we doubt that Mr Abrams could have been interested in learning in detail about the activities of his interlocutor while the latter was in the democratic opposition during his 10 years as Radical Liberal Party [PLR] deputy. We doubt that Mr Abrams could have been interested in learning about Laino's explanation for the participation of the PLR in the elections, when PLR members held elective posts, while Laino was the president of the party board. We doubt that Mr Abrams could have been interested in learning that after the internal split of 1978, which led to the division of the Liberal and Radical Liberal Party, the sectors that were displaced from the party leadership began to advocate abstention. We believe there is not even a chance Mr Abrams might have been interested in such topics.

Nor do we believe Mr Abrams could have been interested in the development of the democratic multiparty system in Paraguay since the opening in 1963; that is too real, too democratic, too clear to attract the attention of those who are used to seeing Latin America as a tangle of problems, who are accustomed to creating problems where there are none, and who are used to aggravating problems whenever they claim to be helping.

The newspaper report says only that "it was a long meeting with the U.S. official, during which several issues concerning our country and the continent were addressed." What we can be sure of is that they surely did not mention the democratic opening remains firm in Paraguay and it applies to all parties, with the same conditions and with the same requirements for the registration of voters and for participation in elections—conditions that were accepted without exception, until the internal infighting led some liberal sectors to abstentionism. They have assumed this position of their own will, and they can reverse their decision whenever they want. The only thing they have to do is to overcome their differences and ill-feelings, which have led them to carry out the sad show of aggression on the streets, either with pocket knives or fists, with the aggressiveness of barbarians who cannot debate their ideas. But they should also observe the principles of coexistence and participation.

Yet Mr Abrams does not have to take what the "Tovarich" told him as the only reference, because he can resort to the impartial reports from other high-level sources like the ones he has here in Paraguay... provided they operate properly, without suspicious leanings or sectarian preferences. Paraguay—we will say it again—is not that difficult to understand; a bit of intelligence is enough for understanding its political situation. Neither can it be ignored that there are no "uprisings," calls for plebiscites or political harassment, "Mothers of Plaza de Mayo," political assassinations, abductions demanding the payment of ransom, guerrillas, narcotics trafficking "multinationals," racial conflicts, genocide, or ethnic discrimination. It cannot be ignored that in the absence of those factors, which provoke violence, there is no reason for repression, and that, consequently, the reported cases are nothing but exaggerated anecdotal situations or biased advertising manipulation by the enemy. Such reported cases may be even less valid than the reported inequalities experienced by the blacks and the Indians in a democracy portrayed as an example for the world.

Anyway, our optimism shall remain untouched. We are certain that if we preserve peace, internal order, and the free democratic game within the law, the situation prevailing in Paraguay will sooner or later be recognized. Paraguay has an unprecedented democratic life for this century, a democracy that began in 1963, when the opposition, burdened by its defeats, agreed to engage in a dialogue with and participate in the Colorado government of President Stroessner, which regularly gives people their sovereignty for choosing those who will fill the elective posts in a pluralistic system and in direct elections. But if all this also deserves objections, it means that no solution that preserves tranquillity is being sought; it means that the Paraguayan democratic institutional development has been made the target of an unjustified attack.

Church Issues Communique on Council of State

PY221844 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
22 Jan 88 p 16

[Text] A communique issued by the Asuncion Archbishopric yesterday says: "The issue of the Council of State and Archbishop Ismael Rolon comes up from time to time. It might be worthwhile to transcribe some of the key paragraphs of the document(s) on the issue."

Asuncion Archbishop Msgr Ismael Rolon recalls that "Article 189 of the Constitution stipulates the Council of State will be integrated by the ministers of the executive branch, Asuncion's archbishop, the rector of the UNA [Asuncion National University], the president of the Central Bank of Paraguay, three retired members of the Armed Forces, two representatives of the agricultural sector, one representative of the manufacturing sector, one representative of the commercial sector, and one representative of workers."

Msgr Rolon adds that "I, as archbishop, sent a note (on 4 February 1971) that was personally delivered to the president of the Honorable Council of State, architect Tomas Romero Pereira, stating my decision—sufficiently and carefully thought out—not to attend the meetings of the Council, and gave the reasons."

The note points out that "of late, the church, in ostensible harmony with the national authorities, has been arbitrarily prevented from cooperating with the government, particularly regarding growing abuses and gross violations of basic human rights."

"The church itself has been deprived of its freedom of expression and communication by the closing of its newspaper. Its pastoral action has been hindered, particularly in the area of organizing laymen in rural areas. This work was intentionally or mistakenly misinterpreted. The church has been, and continues to be, frequently and gratuitously slandered in political radio programs with the obvious acquiescence of national authorities. In short, the church has been, for all practical purposes, isolated, and its access and contact with government agencies or officials have been reduced to the minimum," Msgr Rolon's note says.

The note adds that "it is therefore not proper or reasonable to avoid people's interpretation of my presence at the Council of State, particularly in the case of the faithful, as approving the present state of affairs, as an indication the church depends on civilian powers, or as plain acceptance of every decision of the Council. I beg you, Mr President, to excuse me from the meetings of the Council for as long as the basic calls the church has made to the government are not given proper consideration," the note says.

Msgr Rolon adds in the communique that "my determination and attitude had an important precedent in a letter found in the files of the Metropolitan Curia. The letter speaks of a resolution by Msgr Juan Sinforiano Bogarin, who was then archbishop and president of the Council of State."

Msgr Rolon says, in the communique, that Msgr Bogarin's letter to the Council of State in July 1942 stated: "Honorable Council of State, according to Article 62 of the new Constitution, as archbishop, I am a charter member of this Council. I was designated president by your unanimous decision. Today, however, I find it necessary to resign from the post for reasons I herewith enumerate."

"I accepted this serious responsibility because I believed that the Paraguayan people would recognize my work for the side of good during almost 50 years at the service of the church. I was sure that my cooperation with the government would not modify their judgment regarding my honest intentions. I thought the people had already stated their position regarding my work as bishop and my patriotism as a common citizen," Msgr Bogarin's letter said.

The letter further said that "I was able to feel from the beginning, and confirm with more clarity as the days went by, that my background, which was well consecrated by public opinion, was not enough to sustain me in the face of the political distrust and intrigue of people who tried to involve my name in alleged political plots. These biased appraisals would not have hurt me if only I or my activity in the exercise of a civilian duty was at stake, because as a public figure I was exposed to criticism, censure, and even arbitrary and false accusations. But I have been accused of supporting political factions and of being responsible and a source of inspiration for many decree-laws submitted to the Council of State."

Msgr Bogarin stressed in the 1942 letter that those decree-laws of the Council of State were "strongly censured in some sectors as anti-democratic and dictatorial, and even as being against the church. I also request—even though as a simple member I would not be exposed to as much criticism as if I held the council presidency—to be excused from attending the sessions of this council. This is to eliminate the basis for those accusations, and because of my old age and my illnesses," Juan Sinforiano Bogarin's letter concluded.

Msgr Rolon recalls in the communique the Code of Canonic Rights. Canon 285, Paragraph 2, says "clergymen should avoid participating in events or things that, even though not unseemly, are not really clerical." Paragraph 3 says that "clergymen are forbidden to accept public positions that inherently have among their responsibilities the exercise of civilian power (Note: excercise of civilian, legislative, executive, or judicial power)," Msgr Rolon explains.

The archbishop states, finally, that "this information is part of the history of the political and ecclesiastical life of the Republic of Paraguay."

Peru

Nationwide Strike Protests Economic Policy

Radio Stations Occupied

PA270241 Paris AFP in Spanish 1858 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Lima, 26 Jan (AFP)—MRTA (Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement) urban commandos occupied two local radio stations this morning and aired proclamations in support of the strike called by labor organizations for this Thursday to protest the high cost of living, the antiterrorist police reported today. The subversives, armed with guns and submachineguns, simultaneously entered the studios of the "R-700" and "Onda

Popular" radio stations in different parts of the capital, forcing the stations to air a 7-minute recording, announced General German Salas, chief of the Antiterrorist Directorate.

In the proclamation, the MRTA harshly criticized President Alan Garcia's government and called on the people to support the strike Friday [as received] to protest the high cost of living in Peru. The armed group asked the people to support the MRTA's armed struggle in the so-called northeastern front which, since last November, has been based in the Amazon Department of San Martin.

After remaining less than 10 minutes at each station, the MRTA members hurriedly left after painting slogans on the walls supporting the national strike, leaving the employees locked up, the authorities reported.

According to a police report, on Sunday and Monday subversive groups dynamited public installations in Paramonga, in the northern part of the country, as well as those in the northern Andean city of Cajarmarca.

In the Amazon city of Tarapoto, in northeastern Peru, it was reported that an alleged MRTA member was captured whom the police regard as the third-ranking leader of that guerrilla organization in the zone, and who is alleged to have acted as liaison with the Colombian M-19 [19 April Revolutionary Movement]. His name is Cistero Garcia Torres, and he was captured last Saturday morning [words indistinct].

'Violent Clashes'

PA291921 Paris AFP in Spanish 0625 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Lima, 28 Jan (AFP)—As a result of today's 24-hour national strike against the government's economic policy, 2 persons have been killed, 31 injured and 1,000 arrested, and terrorists have staged about 10 attacks, according to a preliminary police report.

The strike, called by the CGTP (General Confederation of Peruvian Workers), was considered by analysts to be a success for labor union leaders and a failure for the government. In the main Peruvian cities there were violent clashes between strikers and policemen as the latter tried to prevent street protests. In addition, thousands of peasants tried to block roads with rocks, but by noon soldiers were able to bring the situation under control.

Policeman Carlos Manero was assassinated in Pisco, located 230 km south of Lima, by a Shining Path unit. In a poor neighborhood in Huancayo, 300 km east of Lima, an unidentified individual was killed in a clash between neighbors who supported the strike and civil guardsmen. The clash left 10 persons wounded.

In the Departments of Lima, Arequipa, Junin, Ayacucho, Apurimac, and Lambayeque, several terrorist attacks took place against government institutions and police stations, but there were no casualties. In the northern city of Chiclayo a policeman was wounded.

In the capital, extremist students threw explosive devices at the police near the Engineering University. One of the students, Ramon Tranquino, was seriously injured when a device exploded as he was throwing it. In a rally organized by the CGTP at the 2 May Plaza in downtown Lima, about 100 Shining Path followers threw explosive devices, sticks, and stones at followers of the United Left, a Marxist organization. In this clash 10 persons were wounded, 4 of them as a result of dynamite explosions. Nine other people were wounded in poor neighborhoods of Lima where the police acted forcefully to prevent residents from holding demonstrations and blocking city streets with rocks.

The strike, the second one called by the CGTP during President Alan Garcia's government, was staged to protest the high cost of living and, among other things, sought a general wage increase.

The CGTP, which is led by the Communist Party of Peru (pro-Soviet), has the political support of the United Left. However, subversive groups, the Shining Path guerrillas and the MRTA, also participated in the strike.

Police sources said that at least 1,000 persons have been arrested in different parts of the country in the last 24 hours. "Among them are undocumented people and agitators."

Labor Minister Views Strike

PA010435 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Statement by Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez—date and place not given]

[Text] According to estimates by officials of the Labor Ministry and other public institutions, only 20 percent of all workers participated in the strike called by the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers. Our estimates are based on information received from government ministries in which almost 90 percent of all workers showed up for work. Therefore, we do not consider the strike a success or a failure, but an event that strengthens democracy and allows workers and the Peruvian people to see that these incidents are important for the government and for political and labor union organizations.

Here we have important charts that show that more than 673 workers went to their jobs, with 60.1 percent, which is the working population in Lima. [sentence as heard] We can also report each department's attendance and percentage regarding the working population. According to an analysis, we can report the following:

In Piura, 81.9 percent; in Chiclayo, 86.3 percent; in Trujillo, 87.9 percent; in Ancash, 65.3 percent; in Lima, 73.9 percent; in Ica, 89.1 percent; in Arequipa, 77.6 percent; in Ilo, 81.3 percent; in Tacna, 76.1 percent; in Iquitos, the city with the highest attendance rate, 94.7 percent; in Ucalpa, 68.7 percent; in Huancayo, 72.2 percent; in Cuzco, 76.1 percent; and in Puno, 44.9 percent. We have not included in these figures those working centers that are striking over labor demands rather than because they support the CGTP.

In the economic sector, the textile industry holds the highest attendance rate, 90 percent; some textile companies show a 100-percent attendance rate. In the mining sector, 73.2 percent of all employees showed up for work, as did over 90 percent of all government ministry employees.

These figures demonstrate that over 80 percent of all workers showed up for work. You may have suspected this after seeing the number of workers in Lima, which has the highest number of workers that showed for work.

Because of these facts I call upon CGTP and CTP [Confederation of Peruvian Workers] leaders and other labor union leaders to continue the talks on the problems the Labor Ministry regularly faces. On behalf of the government, we will listen to GGTP and CTP suggestions so that we can improve our program and correct mistakes. I also will call upon CONFIEP [National Confederation of Private Enterprise Institutions] members and businessmen to reach agreement on the fundamental objectives so we may draft a social pact.

Police Capture Members of New Subversive Group

PA302220 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Two alleged terrorists, members of a new subversive group, were captured today by police in Canto Grande. The terrorists were throwing stones at the intersection of Canto Grande Avenue and Las Flores Avenue. Each of them had approximately 100 leaflets from the new Revolutionary Presence Movement [Movimiento Presencia Revolucionaria]. The two men are currently being held at the 40th police station in Canto Grande District. One of them is reportedly a student at Catholic University. He is Alejandro Arce Suarez 21, and he lives on Tupac Amaru Avenue, Callao Province.

Vargas Llosa, Belaunde To Form New Front

PA010021 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] A nine-member commission to organize the future Democratic Front has been installed. Statements were issued today by [former President] Fernando Belaunde Terry, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Luis Bedoya Reyes.

[Begin recording] [Belaunde] We define the current front as the sum of our exerted efforts toward the same goal: consolidating our democratic system, at the risk of constantly being attacked. This goal answers many Peruvian people's demands. The people would like the sectors that are not part of APRA or the United Left to organize a united front that represents a clear political option and a true alternative for the municipal elections or the 1990 elections. Therefore, we are taking the first steps through this meeting today.

[Vargas] I would like to take advantage of this meeting to issue an invitation to all the independent sectors to come join us and support the democratic parties comprising the front. That is why we are meeting today, and that is the mission we have undertaken. We want to serve as a bridge or channel to unite those independent sectors that are not PPC [Popular Christian Party] or Popular Action activists but want to safeguard our democratic system and want deep reforms in a free and legal way to fight poverty and violence in our country. That is the only goal we seek, and we, of course, have no personal political ambitions.

[Unidentified reporter] When I see you standing together like this I am tempted to ask: Which of you three will be the candidate? [laughter]

[Belaunde] Fortunately, I can answer that one. I already have had that experience, so I will not be the one. However, I am sure that whoever is chosen will be an excellent candidate. I have next to me two people with the best qualifications for that post; I say this based on my 10-year experience in government. The front row includes citizens equally qualified for the post. I am sure these three groups will offer the country interesting possibilities.[end recording]

Uruguay

Liber Seregni Returns, Comments on Trip

PY011924 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Broad Front President Liber Seregni returned to Uruguay in the last few hours following a 30-day absence. He said the main topics of his discussions with other leaders were the problems of the foreign debt and the observance of the Esquipulas II agreements. He added that the countries of the area are concerned about the situation in Central America. In Peru, Seregni discussed the problem of the Latin American foreign debt. On this and other topics he said:

[Begin recording] [Seregni] The purpose of my trip was to rest from my routine—to go on a holiday. Most of the time I just took it easy. However, I was able to tour different Cuban cities and talk with Cuban authorities.

[Unidentified reporter] What about Latin American integration?

[Seregni] The main subjects of our discussions were the analysis of the current Latin American reality, the present political situation, and the need for integration, but above all the preocupation with the Central American problem and its effective solution through the fulfillment of Esquipulas II and Esquipulas III. My trip was highly productive because these experiences have enriched my understanding of the situation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Port Workers Lift Strike, Agree to Arbitration

PY301531 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Excerpts] After a 10-day strike, the Port Workers Union of the Centro de Navegacion Trans-Atlantica Company reached an agreement with the company managers through the mediation of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry. The agreement foresees arbitration to solve the conflict that began when the port workers salaries were reduced because of the stoppages they staged earlier this month, stoppages that hindered port movement. [passage omitted]

The conflict was solved thanks to the mediation of the Labor Ministry. The two parties agreed that workers salaries would be reduced because of the stoppages, and that 4-shift work weeks will be implemented as long as there is work in the port.

Labor and Social Welfare Minister Hugo Fernandez Faingold discussed the agreement.

[Begin recording] The Labor Ministry proposed this solution at dawn. We proposed submitting this type of conflict to arbitration. After this decision, nearly all other conflicting points were practically solved. The port workers have agreed to a salary reduction for the stoppages and to return to work as usual—that is, to a 7-day work week in four shifts and not to hinder productivity, as well as to work toward the implementation of an arbitration mechanism. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Briefs

New Drug Board Created

The Executive Branch yesterday announced the creation of a National Drug Traffic and Use Control Board that will be charged with coordinating national and international policies in this area. The board members are: Miguel A. Semino, presidential secretary; Walter Nessi, presidential subsecretary; Raul Lago, Interior subsecretary; Julio Aguiar, Education and Culture subsecretary; and Samuel Villalba, Public Health subsecretary. [Excerpt] *[Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 20 Jan 88 p 6 PY]*